



Trump survives assassination bid

Major security lapse as ex-US president shot in the ear at campaign rally; gunman killed

AGENCIES

FORMER US president Donald Trump survived an attempt on his life when a gunman fired multiple shots at him during a campaign rally in Pennsylvania on Saturday evening (US time), gracing past his right ear. While the 78-year-old presumptive Republican presidential nominee was left bleeding, the shooting killed one attendee and critically injured two spectators. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said Trump was the target of

the attack, which is being investigated as an attempted assassination.

Trump was standing on a stage and addressing his supporters at the packed outdoor election rally in Butler town when bullets started flying. Video footage showed the former president grabbing his ear as he ducked to escape bullets. Trump was seen with blood on his ear and cheek as he was rushed off the stage by Secret Service agents.

Secret Service snipers who were guarding Trump returned fire and killed the suspected shooter, who attacked from the rooftop of a building about 100 metres away from rally venue.

While the motive of the attack is not clear yet, the FBI has identified the shooter as 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks from Bethel Park, Pennsylvania. The attack raised questions about the robustness of the security for the ex-president.

That the shooter was able to reach an elevated platform with a gun, bypassing all security, has baffled officials.

"It is incredible that such an act can take place in our Country.. It was God alone who prevented the unthinkable from happening," Trump said in a social media post.

US President Joe Biden termed the attack "sick" and spoke to Trump afterwards. He also cut short a weekend at his vacation home and flew back to Washington to deal with the crisis. **P9**



Former US president Donald Trump is rushed offstage by Secret Service agents moments after shots were fired at him in Butler, Pennsylvania | AFP

AR-15: GUN BEHIND MASS SHOOTINGS

The AR-15, the gun used by the attacker, is one of the most popular guns in the US and has been used in some of the country's worst mass shootings. It is a semi-automatic weapon, meaning a user can fire multiple shots in quick succession. The gun fires high-velocity bullets that can travel at three times the speed of a handgun round, are accurate over long distances, reports said. It is affordable and easy-to-use

WHO FIRED THE SHOTS AND WHY

- 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks lived in Pennsylvania's Bethel Park, an hour's drive from the rally site
- He was registered to vote as a Republican, but had donated \$15 to a Democratic-aligned political action committee
- Public Pennsylvania court records show no past criminal cases against Crooks
- Motive remains unknown

In this moment, it is more important than ever that we stand united, and show our true character... remaining strong and determined, and not allowing evil to win

Donald Trump, ex-US president

There is no place in America for this kind of violence. It's sick. It's one of the reasons why we have to unite this country. We cannot allow this to be happening. I'm grateful to hear that he's (Trump) safe and doing well

Joe Biden, US president

Deeply concerned by the attack on my friend, former President Donald Trump. Strongly condemn the incident. Violence has no place in politics and democracies

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

K'taka can release only 8,000 cusecs, not 1 tmcft, to TN every day: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

"THE state government can release 8,000 cusecs of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu every day till the month-end, and not 1 tmcft (11,000 cusecs) as ordered by the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC). We are bound to release the full quantum of 1 tmcft only if there is excess rainfall. This was suggested by our team of lawyers. They advised us that otherwise, the committee would feel we are stubborn," said Chief Minister Sidaramaiah here on Sunday after holding an all-party meeting to discuss the issue.

"We held a meeting on July 12 and decided not to release water. We also took a decision then to convene an all-party meeting to file an appeal before the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA). We cannot release 1 tmcft as only 63% of our reservoirs in the Cauvery ba-

sin are full," he said.

"In the last two days, 20,000 and 19,000 cusecs of water was released respectively. On Sunday, 13,000 cusecs was let out. Only the water that cannot be stored for the safety of reservoirs has been drained," he said.

On Thursday (July 11), the CWRC had ordered Karnataka to release 20 tmcft of water to Tamil Nadu, at the rate of 1 tmcft per day till the month-end.

In a normal year, Karnataka has to release 9.4 tmcft of water in June and 31.24 tmcft in July, which totals to 40.43 tmcft. So far, over 5 tmcft has been released.

Experts have cautioned the state government that it could invite the wrath and contempt of the two apex bodies of Cauvery river if water is not released.

Sunday's all-party meeting was attended by leaders from the ruling Congress, opposition alliance of BJP and JDS, farmer unions, legal experts and others.



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz beat Serbia's Novak Djokovic 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (4) to defend his Wimbledon title on Sunday | AP

WELCOME TO THE ERA OF ALCARAZ

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Chennai

THIRTEEN minutes into the men's Wimbledon final, the contest promised to live up to the occasion. Carlos Alcaraz may have broken Novak Djokovic but the first game was taut with tension. Every point had a lot riding on it. There were 20 points, seven duces, uncharacteristic errors from both, multiple second serves... a typical fare to open proceedings.

That game was one of the few times this match remotely had the feel of a contest. In one of the great beatdowns of a bonafide legend in the Open Era, the Spaniard zoomed past Djokovic. The 37-year-old, vying to become the sole owner of most number of Majors across genders, was surprisingly flat. His siege mentality was missing and the Spaniard didn't need a second invitation to defend his crown on grass. The Serb launched a fightback in the third set but it only delayed the inevitable. The near flawless third seed pushed it to a tie-break before one jaw-dropping drop-shot winner set him on his way to paradise land. **P11**

Lured with job offer in Malaysia, Lucknow youth held captive, tortured in Myanmar

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

THERE have been numerous reports about Indians being lured with fake job offers abroad and forced to work for a cybercrime racket based in Myanmar and Cambodia, but survivor accounts detailing the scale of horror have been few. This newspaper spoke to a youngster who ended up in Myanmar after being lured by an IT job opportunity in Malaysia. He managed to escape from the racket's clutches after arranging a ransom for his freedom.

"We got to know of IT sector jobs in Malaysia through a friend. We gave an online interview and within a few days, three of us got visas and tickets and were headed to Malaysia," 25-year-old Sagar Chauhan from Lucknow told this newspaper. Sagar, Ajay and Rahul left India on



Sagar Chauhan



March 27. They were to land in Thailand's Bangkok, which was a transit point. However, on reaching Bangkok, they were booked into a hotel, and later that day, taken for sightseeing. The following day, they were ordered to get into a vehicle and were driven towards Myanmar. After about eight hours of driving, they reached the Myanmar border. In Megalampo on the Myanmar side, they were handed

over to men in uniform who claimed to be from the Myanmar Army.

They eventually ended up at a well-appointed facility (which Sagar says was named Chuangshan), which had over 5,000 workers of different nationalities including Sri Lanka, Pakistan and China. Sagar said their boss was Chinese and spoke through an interpreter. Their job was to convince rich people around the world to invest in various fraudulent schemes. "Those refusing to work would be brutally beaten up

and kept in a dark room.

While Ajay and Rahul relented, I didn't," Sagar added. Sagar was tortured. But a few days

later he was told he could go home if he transferred ₹8 lakh. He reached India on April 14. Ajay and Rahul are still there.

Ex-CEO of Wakf Board booked for misusing ₹4cr

ENS @ Bengaluru

FROM The High Grounds police have registered a case against the former chief executive officer (CEO) of the Karnataka State Board of Wakf for alleged misappropriation of over Rs 4 crore.

The chief accountant of the Board, Mir Ahmed Abbas, filed a complaint against former CEO Zulfiqurulla, based on which the police registered an FIR on July 6. It is alleged that the state government had acquired a piece of land belonging to the Wakf Board and had paid Rs 2.29 crore. Besides, the board had received Rs 1.79 crore from the endowments department. On November 26, 2016, Rs 4,00,45,465 in the board's bank account with the Benson Town branch of Indian Bank was transferred to the Chintamani branch of Vijaya Bank, to open a fixed deposit in the name of the CEO, Karnataka State Board of Wakf. This was initiated by Zulfiqurulla without bringing it to the notice of the board, which led to a loss of Rs 8.03 crore, the complainant alleged.

It was resolved to initiate criminal proceedings against Zulfiqurulla in a meeting on March 31, 2022 and he was issued a notice. He, however, did not give a satisfactory reply. The matter was taken up with the secretary of the minority welfare department, who directed the board to file a complaint against Zulfiqurulla on June 12, 2024, following which the complaint was filed.

Retired High Court judge to investigate MUDA scam

Bengaluru: The state government on Sunday issued a notification to constitute a single-man commission of retired High Court judge Justice PN Desai to investigate the MUDA scam. The Urban Development Department notification stated that the Desai commission has been constituted under the Commission of Inquiry Act. The commission will have all the powers to conduct the probe under the Code of Civil Procedure. The terms of reference for the commission will be released later. **P4**

Puri temple's Ratna Bhandar opened after 46 years

Bhubaneswar: Ratna Bhandar, the revered treasury of the 12th-century Jagannath Temple in Puri, was reopened on Sunday after 46 years for an inventory of valuables and the repair of its structure, officials said. The members of a committee set up by the state government for the purpose entered the temple around 12 pm, and after performing rituals, the treasury was reopened at 1.28 pm, the auspicious moment which was decided at a meeting in the morning, they said. **P5**

Govt may hike KSRTC bus fares after monsoon session

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Bengaluru

AFTER increasing the price of milk and hiking sales tax on petrol and diesel, the Congress government is likely to increase KSRTC bus fares.

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) reportedly passed a resolution on fare hike on Friday. What could have triggered the decision was dues of over Rs 1,000 crore that the state government has to pay KSRTC for allowing women to travel for free under the Shakti guarantee scheme. The government is likely to wait till the nine-day monsoon session, beginning on Monday, to get over to announce the fare hike, sources said.

KSRTC Chairman SR Srinivasa, Gubbi MLA, said in Tumkuru on Sunday that the Corporation has proposed a 15-20 per cent ticket fare hike to the government. This is inevitable as the corporation has suffered

a loss of Rs 295 crore in the last three months, he said.

Even North West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) Chairman Raju Kage confirmed to reporters in Belagavi that there is a plan to hike bus fares.

"The corporation has suffered losses because of the Shakti scheme. Fuel prices and cost of bus spare parts too have gone up. The corporation has rented out its properties to run the show," he said.

But Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy told TNIE that there is no proposal for such a hike. "KSRTC may have passed a resolution, but it will take at least a week to reach me. Let all the four transport corporations (KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC and KKRTC) send me a proposal then we will decide," he said. The number of women beneficiaries using the Shakti scheme has gone up from 80 lakh to 1 crore, a 20 per cent increase, he pointed out. **CONTINUED ON P5**

MONSOON SESSION FROM TODAY

The monsoon session will begin from today. The ruling Congress, and opposition BJP and JDS are gearing up for a head-to-head confrontation. The recent MUDA site scam will come to the fore. Apart from the MUDA scam, they are expected to raise issues like irregularities in the Maharshi Valmiki ST corporation that led to the resignation of minister B Nagendra. The nine-day session is expected to be chaotic. **P4**



The banker to every Indian

BLOCKING HO

AD-SGMRBY

Dear Customer, Your SBI Bank account has been blocked. Link your Aadhar card to your bank account by downloading the SBI any desk app:

<http://newbankapp.com/sbbapp.apk>

YA SBI REWARD POINTS

+91 89853XXXXX

Dear Customer, Account- YONO_SBI net banking Reward point INR Rs. 9895 will be Today expiry documents redeem YOUR CASH click Link <https://ehct.short.gy/MeRX7>

YA HO LOTTERY KA CHANCE

+91 95482XXXXX

Congratulations, you have won the grand prize of 2,50,000 lacs in the SKBC (your lottery number is 5823). To receive your prize, kindly contact Mr. Rahul Sharma on 92XXXXXXX and transfer Rs. 5000 to UPI ID: SKBC@oksbc

Stay protected from SMS scams

- SBI never sends a link on SMS, Email or WhatsApp to update KYC, to unblock account or to redeem reward points.
- Do not share your personal, banking or card details with anyone.
- Do not download any app on the advice of a stranger or by clicking on a link.
- Transactional/Promotional messages sent by SBI will always bear Short Codes containing "SBI, SB", for e.g., SBIBNK, SBIINB, SBYONO, ATMSBI.
- The URL of official websites of SBI will always contain .sbi as top-level domain, for e.g., <https://onlinesbi.sbi>, <https://bank.sbi>.

To report a scam, call the Cyber Crime Helpline at 1930 or visit <https://cybercrime.gov.in>

For blocking of Account/Debit Card to stop further unauthorized transactions; please call SBI's 24X7 helpline number 18001234 / 18002100.

KARO SHAQ
BESHAQ!

IN SCAMS
MEIN
FASOGE
KAB TAK

750 more AI cameras to streamline traffic mgmt

To come up on city outskirts, key junctions; also to keep eye on L&O

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

TO enhance the traffic management system in the city, 750 additional artificial intelligence-enabled smart cameras will be added to the current network of 7,500 CCTV cameras across 3,000 crucial locations. The additional cameras will specifically target the city outskirts and key junctions where new traffic signals have been installed.

Speaking to TNIE, Additional Commissioner of Police (East) Raman Gupta explained that the purpose behind this is to assist in traffic management and to continuously monitor various incidents such as road rage, hit-and-run cases, harassment of women, and other law and order issues. These cameras, connected to the command centre, will be used for both maintaining law and order and managing traffic effectively, he said.

He also emphasised that other crucial aspects include ensuring the city's safety through urban planning for environmental resilience and disaster preparedness, in close coordination with civic authorities and the fire department.

A senior police officer said as



part of the safe city project, 150 watch towers and eight high-definition face-recognition cameras will be installed at bus stands, railway stations, airports and the Chinnaswamy stadium to keep an eye on troublemakers and suspicious individuals, in the third phase, which is expected to be completed by October this year.

While high-definition face-recognition cameras will help in monitoring flow traffic, the watch towers provide broad, unobstructed views of public areas, enabling authorities to respond promptly to incidents, the officer

said and added that together, the equipments will ensure public safety and facilitate rapid response to emergencies, thus making urban environments more secure and resilient.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic-South) Shiva Prakash Devaraju said closely spaced clusters of traffic signals will be synchronised to reduce stops thereby alleviating slow-moving traffic and congestion.

Speaking about the installation of the new cameras, the senior officer added that key areas such as Kanakapura Road, Hosur Road, Bannerghatta Road and Sarjapur Road encompassing 50 new traffic signals will be included.

DCP Shiva Prakash said while these cameras facilitate video surveillance, a daily enforcement drive aimed at penalising violators is currently ongoing. This is the key aspect to deal with violators. "The special drives are particularly crucial as violations such as driving in no-entry zones or parking on footpaths are still not covered by AI cameras," he said and emphasised that effective implementation of these regulations relies heavily on physical enforcement measures.

Labour violations at Victoria: Report

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A fact-finding team, which spoke to stakeholders after the removal of 55 ward attendants from Victoria Hospital in May of 2024, has highlighted lapses in the contracts of the workers.

In the recently released report 'Precarious Labour-Contract Workers of Victoria Hospital', the team highlighted the abysmal working conditions of workers across different designations and roles, violation of the labour code, low and irregular payment of wages, understaffing of hospital and unsafe working conditions.

"The contract system is illegitimate as workers continuously worked at the hospital for many years. The contractor has no real control and

seems to be an external agency brought in to deny workers their benefits. This practice violates the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947," reads the 25-page report. None of the contract workers were issued appointment letters which gives leeway to authorities to modify responsibilities and terms of employment.

The fact-finding team was constituted after the workers went on a protest in early May. It consisted of representatives from various civil society organisations including the All India Lawyers Association for Justice (AILAJ), People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), Naveddu Niladidre, Tamte and two independent researchers.

The report also emphasised that existing workers were over-



burdened with long hours and not paid for overtime. Workers on the night shift were deprived of night allowance, which is the usual practice in any organisation. "Due to extremely high work pressure, workers did not have a fixed lunch hour and get as little as 10 minutes to complete their meal," stated the report. Speaking to workers, the team also highlighted that there is no leave policy and workers are not entitled to paid, casual or sick leave.

The team has submitted the

report to the labour and medical education department. "Hiring contract workers in public health institutions like government hospitals must be stopped. Instead, health workers, including non-medical staff, must be hired directly and be paid through the 'Direct Pay System' similar to pourakarmikas," the team suggested.

Other recommendations included setting up a grievance redressal mechanism with management and union representation and releasing funds to ensure proper staffing. The team also suggested forming a multi-stakeholder audit group that includes members from civil society, trade unions and government to conduct a thorough audit into the working conditions of all government hospitals across the state.

Ministry of Labour announces scholarships

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Ministry of Labour and Employment has invited applications for the award of scholarships for children of workers from the unorganised sector. The government will provide financial assistance for the education, health and housing of students for the academic year 2024-25.

Students will be provided aid from Class 1 upwards. According to a press release, students in Classes 1 to 5 will be given Rs 1,000, Classes 5 to 8, Rs 1,500, Classes 9 to 10, Rs 3,000. Individuals pursuing non-professional courses, including ITI and polytechnic, will be awarded a scholarship of Rs 6,000. Students of professional degree courses will be eligible for a Rs 25,000 scholarship.

For details, visit <https://scholarships.gov.in/Students>. The last date for pre-matric applications is August 31 and post-matric October 31. According to a notification, beneficiaries will receive scholarships through the Aadhaar-enabled Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme (DBT).

Applications invited from sportspersons

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Principal Chief Commissioner of Central Tax, Bengaluru Zone, is recruiting eight tax assistants, a stenographer (Grade-II) and seven havaldars under the sports quota.

Meritorious sportspersons can submit their applications for the posts by August 9. Detailed instructions and information regarding educational qualifications and other eligibility conditions along with the terms and conditions are available on the department website www.cbic.gov.in.

Flight to Kolhapur makes emergency landing at KIA

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

A Star Air flight carrying 27 flyers and five crew members made an emergency landing at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on Sunday evening owing to a technical glitch. The airline sent the passengers by road to their destination. Flight No SS 217 was supposed to take off at 12:35 pm from Tirupati and reach Kolhapur, Maharashtra, at 1:45 pm. The Embraer E-145 twin-jet aircraft had a delayed take-off and left Tirupati only at 3:16 pm. An airline source said, "The pilot encountered a technical problem after the take-off and alerted the Air Traffic Control (ATC) at Bengaluru airport as it was the nearest. It is also the base for Star Air. So, the flight was diverted here." The issue was due to a problem with one component in the flight, he elaborated. "We initially thought we could fly the passengers from Bengaluru after rectifying the technical snag at KIA. But the component is not available right now here and we had to cancel the flight," the source said. An airport source said, "The pilot declared an emergency situation. The ATC informed BIAL and landing clearance was given. All emergency protocols were followed." KIA operator Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) confirmed the development. A source said, "The flight had a safe landing at Terminal 1 at 3:55 pm." Star Air offered refreshments to the passengers. "The airline has also offered them a full refund of the flight fare. Since there is no other flight to Kolhapur today (Sunday) from Bengaluru, we also made arrangements for the flyers to leave by road and paid the bus fare too," the airline source added.



Protesters say BBMP's plan comes despite the government deciding the road a no-tolerance stretch with zero parking

Residents protest against proposed corridor project on Kanakapura Rd

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

DRESSED in Yakshagana costumes, residents of apartment complexes along Kanakapura Road staged a protest on Sunday against the proposed development of the road into a high-density corridor.

Under the banner of Kanakapura Road Apartments Movement of Change (KAR-AMoC), more than 100 protestors, including children and senior citizens, from over 10 apartments presented a theatrical display, including an impersonation of Mahatma Gandhi, to register their op-

position to the project.

Residents are opposing the BBMP's plan to reduce the width of Kanakapura Road to build large parking spaces for car showrooms and other commercial establishments.

"The authorities want to facilitate commercial establishments by decreasing the width of the already congested road. Vehicle movement is very high here and this plan comes despite the government already declaring the road as a no-tolerance stretch with zero parking," said Aleem, head of Change-makers of Kanakapura.

Resident associations have demanded that three uniform

lanes be allowed for vehicle movement and a minimum of 2-2.5m width should be maintained for footpaths. Citizens are concerned over the safety of walkers with bikers riding on footpaths and demanded that the government install bollards to prevent this.

"We have sent multiple requests for meetings with the BBMP traffic engineering cell and the engineers in-charge. However, we are yet to receive any response. They are continuing to build one lane of parking space for commercial establishments, which is unacceptable," said Aleem.

CRITICAL BRIDGE IN DASARAHALLI MAY COLLAPSE, PUT RESIDENTS AT RISK



RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

A bridge around a rajakaluve in Dasarahalli is on the brink of total collapse, posing a significant threat to thousands of citizens who traverse it daily, especially during peak hours.

Located just a few yards from SM Road on Jalahalli West entry side, the bridge has been a critical

part of the local infrastructure, facilitating movement across the park that overlies the drain.

Locals lament that despite multiple reports and complaints to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) over the past five years, no effective action has been taken to address the issue. Palike officials, however, denied claims made by residents, and

instead said they are conducting regular inspections and necessary repairs on schedule. Residents expressed frustration over BBMP's inaction, highlighting that all previous calls were closed without any solution. "The situation has deteriorated to the point where 70 per cent of the bridge is already sinking, making it susceptible to im-

nent collapse," a resident highlighted.

The drain from Air Force Jalahalli area to the Dasarahalli rajakaluve runs beneath the park, and is covered by the bridge that has a 20-foot drop. Residents said they urged BBMP to undertake maintenance to save the bridge and avert a disaster.

BBMP's negligence and lack

of proactive measures have drawn severe criticism from locals, who fear for their safety while using the bridge.

Anil Kumar, a resident, lamented that as residents who depend on the bridge, they have voiced their concerns repeatedly to BBMP over the past five years. Despite assurances, the bridge continues to deteriorate,

with a significant portion now sinking dangerously. "Immediate action is crucial to prevent what could become a catastrophe. Our safety should not be compromised," he said.

Janaki, a teacher, said, "Residents rely on this bridge every day, and our safety is hanging by a thread. Immediate action can prevent a disaster."

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

15th July : This week I am returning to take a special look at Taurus, the most down-to-earth sign of the zodiac. The reason it's important is that every one of us was born under its influence, even if for some of us it is more important than for others. The Taurus part of our personality is that which enables us to live in harmony with the world around us.

ARIES
(Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Any tension in your partnerships could be a dynamic force for change over the coming weeks. This is a time to mix as widely as possible and soak up influences you'd normally shun. You're also likely to make big advances in your business plans.

TAURUS
(Apr 21 - May 21)

Your romantic stars are powerful and growing more so by the day, but partners may have the edge when it comes to a battle of wits. You may soon be obliged to accept an unhelpful situation as a fait accompli. Wait till next week for the tables to turn.

GEMINI
(May 22 - June 21)

Your preoccupation with financial affairs looks certain to recur on several occasions over the next year, so the more attention you pay to any irregularities now, the less time you'll need to devote to them later on. Fortunately, today's support from the Moon eases the way at home.

CANCER
(June 22 - July 23)

This is the week to complete all those tasks that must be finished before you can embark on the next stage of your plans. Something that is unclear about home arrangements may cause you to rearrange your schedule, but with Venus and Mars both offering you unequalled support you are on safe ground.

LEO
(July 24 - Aug 23)

You'll press ahead with domestic improvements, allowing time for other obligations where necessary. Family relationships will benefit from the same care you apply to your own special interests, although a domestic mystery is still provoking niggling suspicions.

VIRGO
(Aug 24 - Sept 23)

The planetary accents on pleasure over the coming days, and the best way to personal fulfilment is through devoting extra time to your creative Virgoan skills. Ideally, you should now be on holiday rather than at work. Also, if you get a chance, turn the clock back.

LIBRA
(Sept 24 - Oct 23)

Try asking yourself whether all your recent actions have been for the best. In general you're heading in the right direction, but a little extra care now will prevent difficulties in the future. You are bound to feel put upon, but perhaps the message is to stand up for yourself next time!

SCORPIO
(Oct 24 - Nov 22)

By now Mercury is sufficiently entrenched in your house of dreams to have raised the hope of significant financial improvements. Beware, though, that it's up to you to create the right conditions for success. A domestic revolution will soon be considered - but postponed.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov 23 - Dec 22)

The obstacles which blocked your progress in the past should have been firmly dealt with some time ago. If you are still subject to unfair delays, it's possible you're doing something wrong. Do yourself a favour and learn new skills, including extra social graces.

CAPRICORN
(Dec 23 - Jan 20)

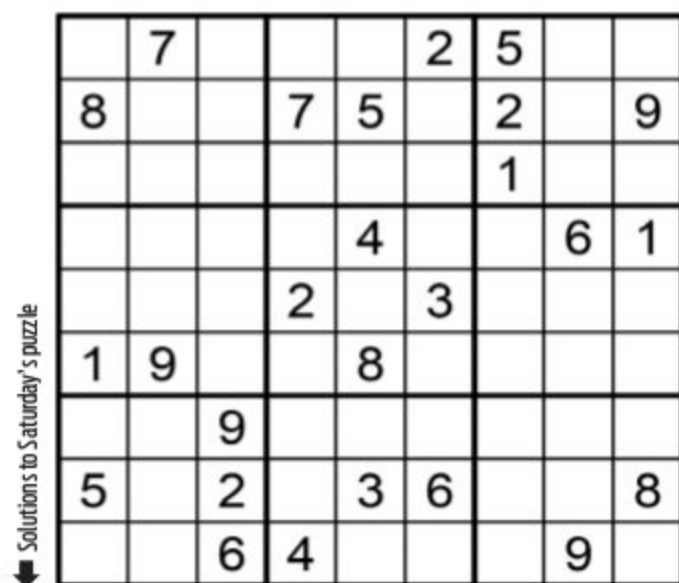
The high pressure of recent weeks is beginning to ease up. Hopefully you can look back on your achievements with pride. Even if there's been little tangible gain, you've grown in wisdom and experience. You could make a financial killing today, but only if the rules are changed.

AQUARIUS
(Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Look upon today's events as a chance to prove your worth when it comes to hard work. Don't shrink responsibility and you'll prove that all those people who have accused you of being lazy and self-interested were completely wrong. By midweek you will have seen the moral high ground, much to partners' annoyance.

PISCES
(Feb 20 - Mar 20)

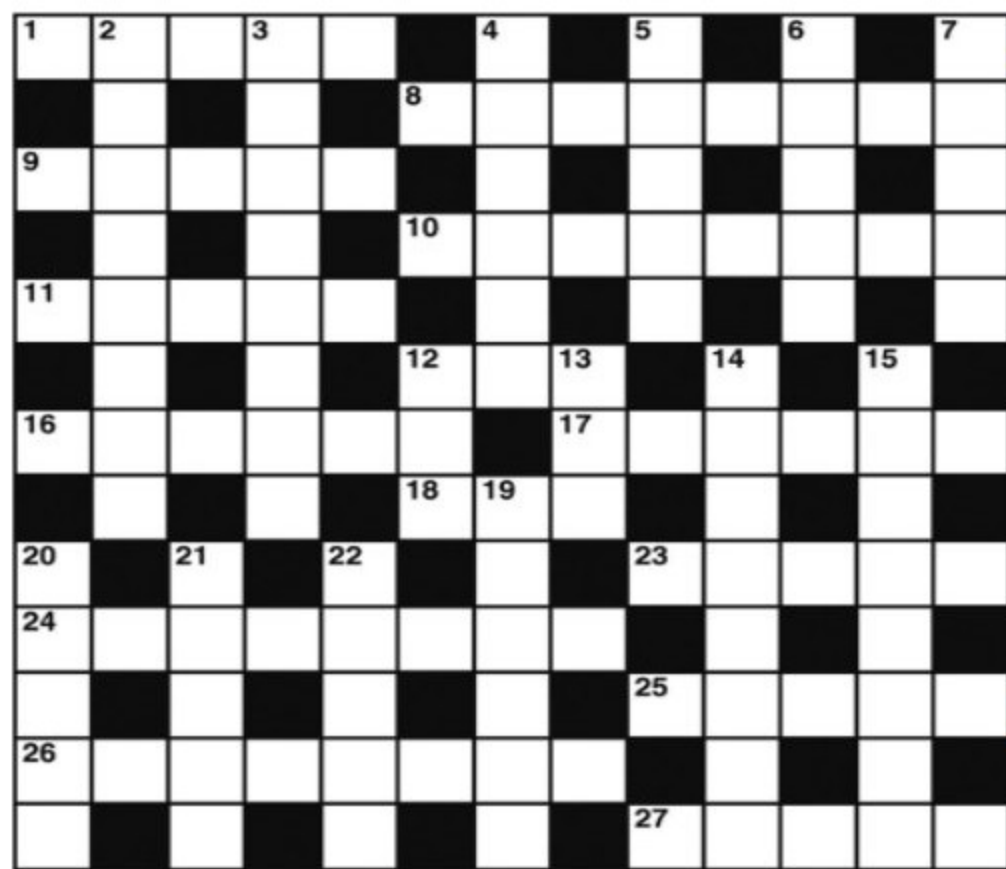
Another helpful astrological line-up creates the opportunities you've been waiting for, whether they be domestic, social or professional. You must make the right moves to complete the picture. You're still keeping a secret, and there's no reason why you shouldn't continue to do so for as long as you like.



SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

- Levels the score and quits (5)
- Possibly avenge it, possibly not (8)
- He's wicked and may be fined (5)
- Treading slippery slope (8)
- Possibly untie but here join together (5)
- Past constitution of Goa (3)
- Get up for wild dances (6)
- Note to change flag (6)
- A bumpkin of a sort (3)
- A factor in show business (5)
- Open coal fires left to go out (8)
- At least a million people have this language (5)
- Old soldier taking flight (6)
- Twists and wraps around (5)
- A measure in operation (5)
- Cat in middle of well is in awkward position (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Planets, 6 Fair, 10 River, 11 Rolling up, 12 One or two, 13 Aisle, 15 Dead-end, 17 Fancier, 19 Feeling, 21 Maestro, 22 Lopez, 24 Artistic, 27 Outhouses, 28 Dwell, 29 Stab, 30 As segment.

DOWN

- The futility of conceit (8)
- The latter years of Einstein? (8)
- Provocative article in communist paper? (3,3)
- Convenient for Hungary's borders (5)
- Be careful! It's said to be booby-trapped (5)
- Some ornate style that makes us irritable (5)
- The fuss that's made when you open a door! (3)
- Gone away (3)
- Scandalous tiade is below standard (8)
- An average period for an interval (8)
- Old soldier taking flight (6)
- Twists and wraps around (5)
- A measure in operation (5)
- Cat in middle of well is in awkward position (5)

JUMBLE

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

CMHPO
KAQEU
DMIELD
TEPYOR

Answer here:

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers tomorrow

Saturday's Jumbles: BAGGY SHIFT WINNER TUSSELL
Answer: She was loving not being married and wasn't planning on changing — A SINGLE THING

DENGUE TESTS

PRIVATE LABS FLEECE PATIENTS, CHARGE UP TO ₹3K

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

DESPITE the government capping the prices for dengue tests at Rs 250-300, private laboratories across Bengaluru have been found charging significantly higher rates, anywhere between Rs 600 and Rs 3,000.

Recently, the health department took action against 22 laboratories for violating the mandated price caps, but the issue seems to continue unabated. When *TNIE* contacted labs in Malleshwaram, Sanjaynagar, JP Nagar, Indiranagar, HSR Layout, Koramangala, and Yelahanka, to ascertain the rates for dengue tests, more than 15 of them quoted prices ranging from Rs 600 to Rs 1,300 for a Rapid Test, despite the government's cap of Rs 250; and Rs 1,200 to Rs 3,000 for the ELISA test, capped by the government at Rs 300 per test. Some labs even quoted an additional Rs 250-400 for Complete Blood Count test, crucial to monitor platelet count and white blood cell levels, which can be significantly affected by the infection.

At a major diagnostic centre affiliated to a hospital chain, operating multiple outlets, clinics,

and pharmacies across the city, the receptionist said they charge the following prices—Rs 1,140 for the ELISA NS1 test and Rs 1,797 in JP Nagar for the combined ELISA test, covering both NS1 and IgM. When refused to sign up for registration, they offered a discount of Rs 150 on the quoted prices.

In another branch of the same centre, providing the Malleshwaram PIN code this time, they informed that the cost of the profile dengue test would be Rs 3,040 – 10 times higher than the capped prices.

When asked why their prices exceeded the government-mandated caps and whether this was due to home sample collection, the centre clarified that they have standard charges and explained that for home sample collection, they typically charge an additional Rs 150.

Another laboratory chain quoted Rs 900 for ELISA NS1 in Sanjaynagar, whereas a health lab in HSR Layout charged Rs 1,500 for the same test.

If any individual encounters any lab charging exorbitant rates for essential dengue tests, they can report it to the district health officer.

Edu dept asks schools to take up spraying, fogging

PURAN CHOUDHARY @Bengaluru

WITH the rise in dengue cases in the state, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has issued a circular to all government, aided and unaided schools to undertake preventive measures and curb the spread of vector-borne diseases. Experts have warned that a major chunk of dengue cases are being detected in children and those below the age of 18.

The department has instructed schools to clear accumulated water on and near school premises and dispose of wet waste immediately to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes. "Necessary steps should be taken so that school students do not roam near such areas and action should be taken as per rules to clear and dispose of the waste," the DSEL circular, dated July 10, read.

Educational institutions must work in tandem with gram panchayat and civic bodies to organise spraying and fogging for anti-dengue measures. DSEL has also asked schools to scoop, wash and empty all overhead tanks and water filters once a week. Post cleaning and drying, the tanks should be shut tight with lids.

Dr Parimala V Thirumalesh, Consultant, Neonatology and Paediatrics, Aster CMI Hospital, said parents and teachers should closely monitor children for symptoms and take preventive measures such as making children wear long-sleeved clothes while being outdoors in the mornings and evenings.

The Education Department has also asked schools to create awareness during prayer time and inform about the symptoms of diseases such as dengue, chikungunya and Zika virus. If any cases of fever are reported among school students they must immediately admit them to the nearest healthcare centre and provide appropriate treatment, stated the circular.

DENGUE CASES

As of July 14, the state reported 9,527 dengue cases, with 3,124 within BBMP limits, 57 in Bengaluru Urban, and 38 in Bengaluru Rural.

People should keep their surroundings clean. One should drink plenty of fluids to avoid dehydration. Consume at least two-three litres of water and fruits such as watermelon and oranges

Dr Parimala V Thirumalesh, Aster CMI Hospital



A youngster takes pets out for a walk on a Sunday afternoon in Hanumanthanagar | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

CITY ROUNDS

Woman jumps in front of train after son hangs self

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Hubballi

A twin tragedy struck a family at Karur village of Ranebennur in Haveri district when two of its members died by suicide in a span of a few hours. The incident was reported on Saturday when 18-year-old Dhanaraj Nayak hanged himself at his residence when his parents were away. After returning home, when his mother Bhagyamma saw her son hanging, she ran to the nearest railway track and jumped in front of a train and died.

Bhagyamma and her husband Suresh Nayak were daily

wage workers and their son Dhanaraj was studying at Harihar in Davanagere. Last year, their 14-year-old daughter passed away due to illness.

The Kumarapatnam police said Dhanaraj was demanding a racing bike from his parents for some time and on Saturday morning, he had an argument with them again over the issue. His father reportedly agreed to buy him a bike, but later in the day the boy took the extreme step.

Police said Bhagyamma went to the railway station at Karur, waited for a train and jumped in front of it. The matter came to light only after her husband returned home.

Cops seek info on accused for girl's murder

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE railway police have sought information on two accused in connection with the murder of a six-year-old girl whose body was found in the parking lot of the Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna (KSR) railway station on July 3.

Investigations revealed that victim Mariam's mother Heena alias Kaali and her paramour Raja alias Mani Kanta committed the murder. Police said Heena and Raja were into beggary and both are absconding.

Those who have any information about them can alert the police on the following phone numbers: 9480802113, 9480802102, 9480802140. The details of the informers will be kept confidential and they will be suitably rewarded.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public are hereby informed that our clients intend to purchase the Schedule Property (as defined below) i.e., an apartment bearing No. 204 on the 2nd Floor of 'Brigade Jaccaranda', more fully described in Schedule A hereunder and hereinafter referred to as "Schedule C Property" (along with an exclusive right to use of private terrace area measuring 900 sq. ft. attached to the Schedule C Property), together with 1065.38/10674 undivided right, title and interest and ownership in the Schedule A Property (as defined below), which works out to 1465.14 sq. ft. which is more fully described in Schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as "Schedule B Property", constructed on property bearing BDA Site Nos. 2023/D, 2023/E, 2023/F and 2023/G and Municipal Nos. 602, 603, 604 and 605, clubbed as New Municipal No 602/2 and situated at Dookanahalli, H.A.L. II Stage, Bangalore, in Corporation Ward No.74, Bangalore, more fully described in Schedule hereunder and hereinafter called as "Schedule A Property") from its present owners, Mr. Vilas Shirhatti, Ms. Shruti Vilas Shirhatti and Mr. Sourabh Vilas Shirhatti who have represented that they are the absolute owners with full and marketable title to sell the Schedule Property (as defined below) in favour of our clients without any manner of claim or demand or objection from any other persons.

Schedule B Property and Schedule C Property (along with an exclusive right to use of private terrace area measuring 900 sq. ft. attached to the Schedule C Property) are hereinafter collectively referred to as "Schedule Property". Any person's having any claims or having objections to the proposed transaction may contact the undersigned within 7 (seven) days from the date of this publication. Claims and/or objections received after the said period of 7 (seven) days will not be binding on our clients and our clients will proceed with the purchase of the Schedule Property on the basis that no person has any claim on the Schedule Property and/or any objection to the purchase of the Schedule Property by our client.

SCHEDULE A PROPERTY (Description of the entire / larger property)

All that property bearing BDA Site Nos. 2023/D, 2023/E, 2023/F and 2023/G and Municipal Nos.602/2, 603/3, 604/4 and 605/5, clubbed as New Municipal No.602/2 and situated at Dookanahalli, 14th A Cross Road, H.A.L. II Stage, Bangalore, in Corporation Ward No.74, Bangalore, with a total area of 14408.69 Sq. Ft. (fourteen thousand four hundred and eight decimal six nine) and bounded by:

East : Private Property;
West : Private Property;
North : 14th A Cross Road;
South : Private Property.

SCHEDULE B PROPERTY (Undivided share in the entire / larger property)

1065.38/10674 undivided right, title and interest and ownership in the Schedule A Property, which works out to 1465.14 sq. ft. (one thousand four hundred sixty five decimal one four square feet) of land share in the Schedule A Property.

SCHEDULE C PROPERTY (Description of the Residential Apartment)

All that Residential Apartment bearing No. 204 in the Second Floor of 'BRIGADE JACCARANDA' measuring 2645 sq. ft. (two thousand six hundred forty five square feet) of super built up area approximately inclusive of proportionate share in common areas, passages, lobbies, staircases and other areas of common use with 2 (two) top covered car parks in the Basement and apartment is bounded by:

East : Lift, Lobby and Apartment No. 201 in 'Brigade Jaccaranda';
West : Open Space;
North : Open Space towards 14th A Cross Road;
South : Open Space.

The walls are built out of Brick and Cement with Vitrified tiles in living, dining, bedrooms and kitchen and R.C.C. roofing. It has electricity, water and sanitary connections and all other common services. The wood used is Honne/Teak with flush doors.

Ward 88-Jeevanbhimanagar and PID No. 74-160-60/13 with property address being 60/13, Dookanahalli Grama, as per the latest property tax paid receipt (2024-25).

MD&T PARTNERS

MD&T Partners, Advocates, 367, 14th Cross, Sadashivanagar, Bangalore - 560 080, Karnataka. Ph No. 080-41520682/3. Email: mythri@mdtpartners.com

TRAGIC OUTING

Speeding vehicle hits car driven by minor, two dead

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AN early morning outing for biryani turned tragic for a group of minors, when two of them died on the spot and two others were seriously injured when an unknown vehicle rammed their car from the rear. The incident took place on Attibele state highway in Sulibele police station limits, in Hoskote taluk on the outskirts of the city, early on Sunday.

The deceased were identified as Siddarth (14), a Class 9 student at a private school, and Harshavardhan (17), a second-year PU student at a private college. The injured are Srujan, an SSLC dropout, and Uday, a second-year PU student. All four are residents of Kempapura in Hebbal.

Police said the group of friends planned to have biryani early in the morning and took the car belonging to Srujan's parents. It is said that none of them informed their parents about their expedition. They were on the Attibele highway around 3.30 am, when a speeding heavy vehicle, suspected to be a truck, hit the car from the rear. Due to the impact, Siddarth and Harshavardhan, who were sitting in the rear seat, died on the spot, while Srujan, who was driving, and Uday sustained serious injuries. They were rushed to hospital.

Police are analyzing CCTV footage to trace the vehicle that hit the car. "None of them had a driving licence as they were minors. We are contemplating booking the car owner for giving the vehicle to a minor to drive. It will be decided based on the findings of the investigating team," the police added.

A case was registered at Sulibele police station.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, Sri Venkat Muramala S/o Sri M Venkateshwar Rao residing No.117 2nd Cross Road, Srinivasa Cinema Theatre Lane Marathahalli Bangalore-560037 has represented that he has lost the following Original Documents while driving the house:

1. Sale Deed No. BLR(S)/18139/2004-05 registered in the office of the Sub Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk executed by Sri J Mahendrababu in favour of Sri Venkat Muramala in SRO, Bangalore South Taluk.

2. Sale Deed No. BAS-131489/2004-05 registered in the office of the Sub Registrar, Banavasi executed by Sri J Mahendrababu in favour of Sri Venkat Muramala in SRO, Banavasi.

Complaint lodged vide Lost Report No. 1142550/2024 dated 12.07.2024. If any person/s is in possession of the said Original Documents, he/she may please hand over the same either to the undersigned or to the Owner within 15 days from the date of issue of this Public Notice, failing which my Client believing that there are no claims objections whatsoever, will proceed without original documents and use the Certified Copies of the same to enforce for all future transactions.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. 14 formed out of Sy No.11/7 Old Katha No.283 vide Conversion Order No. ALN(E) VB-SR: 147/2004-05 dated 19.08.2004 issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner Bangalore District converted from agricultural to non-agricultural residential purpose, Situated at Munnekola Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk measuring East to West: 60 Feet & North to South on Eastern side: 36 Feet & Western side: 30 Feet in all measuring 1980 Sq. feet and bounded on the:

East by: 25 Feet Road
West by: Property No.21
North by: Property No.15
South by: Private Property

V MOHAN, Advocate No. 23, UAS Layout, Basavaneswara Nagar, Shivahalli Village, Yelahanka, Bengaluru 560084, MOB: 94485 42007, e-mail: smnagel33@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, T. Ramakrishna, S/o Late Athipai Naidu, aged about 68 years, R/o No.23, 7th Cross, 8th Main, Hosyaala Nagar, Ramurthy Nagar Bengaluru-560 016, do hereby state and informs to the General Public that the Registered General Power of Attorney dated 25.10.2021 given to M/s SDP Enterprises, A Promoter/Officer from Office at 1st Main, 1st Cross, SDCPS Bank Building, T.G. Extension, Hoskote-562114, Rep. by V. Lakshminipathy S/o V. Venkatesh, Aadhar No. 456711890348, the said General Power of Attorney is duly registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar Senior Sub-Registered Shivalgi Nagar (Indiranagar), vide registered Document No. INR-4-00568-2021-22, Book No. IV Stored in CD No. INR0923, Dated 25.10.2021, to develop all my properties. The Sites bearing Sy.No. 57, Site No.3, 4 and 5 Katha No.591 Situated at Mahadevapura Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bengaluru District, measuring East to West 70 feet and North to South 35 and totally measuring 2450 Sq.ft. out of Feet 3150 Sq.ft. bounded by East by: Private Property, West by: remaining portion of same property retained by the Landowner, North by: Private Property, South by: Road and know I myself will look after the property & develop myself. Hence, NOW the above said Registered General Power of Attorney dated 25.10.2021, Stands REVOKED and void CANCELLED in the office of the Senior Sub-Registered Shivalgi Nagar (Indiranagar), vide registered Document No. INR-4-00568-2021-22, Book No. IV Stored in CD No. INR0923, Dated 25.10.2021, with immediate effect. Any Person's/General Public are hereby informed and cautioned that dealing with M/s. SDP Enterprises Rep. by V. Lakshminipathy S/o V. Venkatesh respect of the above said schedule properties are doing at their risk and responsibility and will not have any legal security and I am a sole authority to deal with it.

Please note that, in view to manage the affairs of the properties hereafter in my own interest the terms of General Power of Attorney given to M/s. SDP Enterprises Rep. by V. Lakshminipathy S/o V. Venkatesh are hereby informed and cautioned that dealing with M/s. SDP Enterprises Rep. by V. Lakshminipathy S/o V. Venkatesh respect of the above said schedule properties are doing at their risk and responsibility and will not have any legal security and I am a sole authority to deal with it.

Sri. T. Ramakrishna, S/o Late Athipai Naidu, OWNER/PRINCIPAL, Residing at No.23, 7th Cross, 8th Main, Hosyaala Nagar, Ramurthy Nagar, Bengaluru-560 016. Date: 14/07/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public are hereby informed that our client Sri S. Rajan Kumar S/o Siddaramiah, is intends to purchase below mentioned property from its owner and who are in possession i.e. Sri. Venkatesh Anjanappa S/o Anjanappa, and Smt. Rajani Malah W/o Venkatesh Anjanappa, the said vendors have purchased the property from Smt. Banudhevi and Smt. Prema N Gowda by a registered sale deed dated 20.08.2020, by virtue of the same the Sri. Venkatesh Anjanappa, S/o Anjanappa, and Smt. Rajani Malah W/o Venkatesh Anjanappa, are in possession and enjoyment in respect of below mentioned property. If any person/institution/Bank having any right, title claim or interest in the schedule property or have any objection in any manner whatsoever regarding title or sale transaction in respect of the schedule property between our clients and its absolute owners are hereby called upon to notify the undersigned and file objections/claims if any along with supporting documents within 7 days from the date of publication at the address mentioned below. If no such claim is received within specified period, it would be deemed claim is received within specified period. It would be deemed that the above mentioned owners have clear and marketable title, claim or interest over the schedule property. If anybody have claim raised thereafter shall not be entertained and not binding.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE property vacant Site No. 1/A, situated at Nagappa Street, Palace Guttahalli, Bengaluru, now comes under the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Bengaluru bearing New Municipal Khatna No. 4, Nagappa Street, Dattahalli Temple, Ward No. 6, P.O. No. 6-59-4, Measuring East to West 80 Feet, North to South 27 Feet, Totally measuring 2160 Sq. Ft. and bounded on: East by: Nagappa Street, West by: Property of Sri. Lakshminah North by: Venkateshappa House No. 83, South by: Property of R. Aravind Kumar.

ASHOK, Advocate B.V. Sudhakar and Associates No. 304, K.S.R.B. Gandhi Nagar, Bangalore - 560 009. Mobile: 96111 43963

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II AT BANGALORE

Case No : O.A. 85/2023
Summons under sub-section(4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with Sub - Rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993

State Bank of India, SARB Bangalore ...Applicant And: Sri Krishnamurthy N. G. & Anr ...Respondent

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993

To: 1) Mr. Krishnamurthy NG S/o Govindappa, Major, R/o: #157, GEETHA KRISHNA, 7th Cross, 7th Main, Near Hosyaala Circle, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bangalore - 560 060.

Also at: M/s. Raghavendra Poultry Farm, Nulenoor, Dabbagunte Post - 572 218, Hulyar, CN Halli, Tumkur Dist.

Also at: Villa No. 18, SUCHPRAA Villas, No. 11, Sy. No.57, Shethi Halli, Yeshwanthpura, Bangalore - 560 099. ...Defendant No. 1

Whereas, this Applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993, against the Defendant(s) you for recovery of a sum Amount of Debt in Rs.1,56,74,754/- (Rupees One Crore Fifty Six Lakhs Seventy Four Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Four Only) Defendant No. 1 is/ are therefore hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly authorized agent, in support of his/her defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on 27-09-2024 at 10:30 a.m. (forenoon) as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal on this 15th day of June 2024.

By order of the Tribunal Sd/- Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal - II

YOUR GUIDE TO SPICY LIVING

INDULGE Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

KERALA STATE DRUGS & PHARMACEUTICALS LTD.

Kolam - P. P. Nagar, Kerala-695027. Tel:- 2477 258104. Website: www.ksdpc.in or mail: ksdpc@gmail.com

E - Tender Notice

E-Tenders are invited from competent Suppliers/Manufacturers for the Supply of APIs, Excipients, Granules and PVC Film for the year 2024-25. Last dates of Bid Submissions are 22th to 26th July, 2024.

Please Refer Sites <http://etenders.kerala.gov.in/www.ksdp.co.in> for detailed specification, terms and conditions. Any further amendment or corrigendum will be published only in the sites. Participants are advised to refer sites for necessary information on a regular basis.

Sd/- Managing Director

THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (DRT - II)

4th Floor, Ambekar Veedhi, BSNL Building, Telephone House, Rajbhawan Road, Bangalore - 560 001 Case No. O.A 442/2021

Between: State Bank of India, ARMB Branch, Bangalore ...Applicant And Sri K. N. Shiva Kumar and another ...Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993. TO THE DEFENDANT THROUGH PAPER PUBLICATION

To: Defendant No. 1: Sri K. N. Shivakumar, Aged 39 Years, S/o. Sri Nagaraju, Proprietor M/s. Prarthana Enterprises, Residing at No. 60, 115 th Main Road, HAL 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560 008. Also at: Thyalagere Village, Devenahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural - 562 110.

Defendant No. 2: M/s. Prarthana Enterprises, Represented by its Proprietor Sri K. N. Shivakumar, Situated at Agrahara layout, 4th Main Road, 14th Cross, Bangalore - 560 064.

Whereas, the applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due and Bankruptcy Act, of 1993, against you, for recovery of a sum of Rs.30,03,613.00 together with current and future interest and other reliefs. You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of the summons on or before 29.08.2024 at 10.30 AM in the forenoon in person or by a Pleader/Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence. Given under my hand the seal of this Hon'ble Tribunal this the date of 06.07.2024.

By Order of the Tribunal Sd/- Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue Summons Debts Recovery Tribunal - II Bangalore

THE ALL-NEW

TNIE THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS APP

SCAN THE QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD THE APP

Google Play App Store

STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH THE LATEST NEWS

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that I, Smt. Gowramma, W/o Late D.C. Dhanrajappa, aged about 73 years, R/o No. 52, Shanti Nilaya, Pal Layout, 3rd Cross, 'Hope Farm' White Field, Bengaluru 560 066 along with 4 Others, have filed O.S. No. 480/2014 against Srinivasa Gowda and 4 others, seeking for the reliefs of Specific Performance in relation to the Schedule Property, before The Principal Senior Civil Judge, Bengaluru Rural District which was dismissed for Non Prosecution on 11/7/2022 and we have filed Miscellaneous Petition No. 81/2022 before The Principal Senior Civil Judge, Bengaluru Rural District seeking restoration of our suit, which is pending consideration and the next date of hearing is 23/7/2024.

The Public are hereby warned not to deal with Sri. Srinivasa Gowda and 4 others in relation to the Schedule property. Despite this notice, if any person's venture to purchase or enter into any transaction with Sri. Srinivasa Gowda and 4 others, in relation to the aforesaid property, they will be doing so at their own risk and peril. If any transaction/s were to take place during the pendency of the proceedings, the same shall not be binding on us.

SCHEDULE All that piece and parcel of the land measuring 2 acres 31 guntas, including 3 guntas of Kharab, out of the total extent of 3 acres 31 guntas (including 4 guntas of Kharab) out of Sy. No. 1104 of Varthur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk and bounded on: East by: Land belonging to Kumbura Venkateshappa, West by: Land belonging to Munichennappa and children and remaining land of Girigowda (now belonging to Sowbhagyamma and others), North by: Land bearing Sy. No. 1103/3 and South by: Land belonging to Nanjappa and the remaining land belonging to Girigowda (now Sowbhagyamma and others, measuring 0-09 guntas and Karab 0-01 gunti) with access to road on the southern side of the above property measuring East to West 8.5 feet.

GOWRAMMA Place: Bengaluru, Dt: 15/07/2024

भारत सरकार / अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

निर्माण एवं अनुसंधान समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्फर (जिला), आ.प्र. / SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

संक्षिप्त ई-निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

ई-निविदा सूचना सं. / E - Tender Notice No.CMG/CCON/248712, 248713 तिथि/ Date: 09.07.2024

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, "एसएसएलवी प्रमोचन परिसर, (एसएसएलवी), तिरुचेदूर एवं सतनकुल तालुक, थुयुक्कुडी जिले में अविनाशकारी परीक्षण (एनडीटी) सुविधा का निर्माण (सिविल, जन स्वास्थ्य विद्युतीय, यांत्रिक एवं एसी कार्य)" (र1998 Lakhs); "एसएसएलवी प्रमोचन परिसर, (एसएसएलवी), तिरुचेदूर एवं सतनकुल तालुक, थुयुक्कुडी जिले में नावल समुच्चयन तथा खंड तैयारी सुविधा (एनएसपीएफ) का निर्माण (सिविल, जन स्वास्थ्य विद्युतीय, यांत्रिक एवं एसी कार्य)" (र1944 Lakhs) के लिए ई-निविदा के माध्यम से मद वर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज 05.08.2024 को 14:30 बजे तक डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं। विस्तृत सूचना के लिए हेतु इच्छुक निविदाकार हमारी वेबसाइट www.isro.gov.in या www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO देखें।

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for "Construction of Non Destructive Test (NDT) Facility at SSLV Launch complex (SLC), Tiruchendur & Sathankulam Taluk, Tuticorin District (Civil, PH, Electrical, Mechanical & AC works)" (र1998 Lakhs); "Construction of Nozzle Assembly and Segment Preparation Facility (NASPF) at SSLV Launch complex, (SLC), Tiruchendur & Sathankulam Taluk, Tuticorin District (Civil, PH, Electrical, Mechanical & AC works)" (र1944 Lakhs). Tender documents can be downloaded up to 05.08.2024, 14:30 hrs. Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.

हस्ताक्षरित-समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಹಾಗೂ ರಾಮನಗರ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದೇರಿ ಪ್ರಾಂಶು: ಹಾ|| ಎಂ.ಎಚ್.ಮಂಗಳೇಶ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ೧೬, ಆರ್. ಕಾಲೇಜ್ ಅಂಚೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-೫೬೦೦೨೯

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ

Basanagouda Daddal, Raichur Rural MLA and Chairman of the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Limited, who was allegedly incommunicado after his questioning on Friday, was spotted moving out of his residence in Raichur in the wee hours of Sunday

NEW LAWS A GIMMICK BY CENTRE, WE WILL AMEND THEM: HK PATIL

MINISTER for Law and Parliamentary Affairs **HK Patil** said 90 per cent of the old criminal laws have not been changed in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023, while the changes brought in offer nothing good to society. The three new laws are nothing but a gimmick by the Central government. In a conversation with *TNIE*, the minister said they will amend them.

What are the state government's concerns about the new laws?

The new laws replace the Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and Indian Evidence Act. Unfortunately, the central government has not applied its mind fully. Union Home Minister Amit Shah showed the people that he is open-minded by inviting comments and suggestions from all states. Karnataka also sent 27 suggestions. When

has become optional. The Central government has turned a deaf ear to our suggestion that attempts to dishonour Father of the Nation, National Anthem and National Flag be deemed an offence, by not including it in the new laws. It only stated that these are punishable but does not specify under which Act. The punishment for offences affecting national integration is three years or Rs 5,000 fine. Another important point is removal of dishonouring dead bodies and necrophilia. Some aspects of CrPC, like punishment through community service, are mentioned but community service is not defined.

What remedy will the state government find for these issues?

The Centre has failed to provide good criminal laws. We want to stop implementing these laws. We made our assertion to the Centre, but it was turned down. The only options are either public demonstra-

is a gimmick by the Government of India. The mistakes are before us.

Can this be challenged before the Supreme Court?

It can be challenged. But for parent laws, they are not supposed to intervene. They can make some suggestions.

What do you say of the deteriorating law and order situation in the state?

It is worrying everyone. Crime is not just happening among the lower strata of society. Those who have money and strength are also committing crimes. Communal issues have not increased, but are being unnecessarily overplayed. It is being done to help political parties, which is not a good trend.

How many bills are you planning to bring in this session?

We are hoping to bring in about 20 bills, including amendment of the new laws, reservation in outsource bills, irrigation bills, bills related to amendment for medical practitioners' protection. The BBMP bill might also come up.

Are you going to take the opposition into confidence?

Yes. Opposition parties need to be more constructive. Unnecessary politicization in the House will not serve any purpose.

The government appointed the Justice HS Kempanna Commission to submit a report on land denotification in Arkavathy Layout. The report is now in cold storage, why has no government tabled it in the House?

Unless there is pressure, no government will take unpleasant decisions. If there is pressure, we will take a decision.

Pressure from the opposition?

There are three or four sections of people who can bring pressure on the government -- our own legislators, media, opinion makers and judiciary.

What is the focus of the new tourism policy?

It is to protect and restore historical and archaeological



PIC: NAGARAJA GADEKAL

signing at least 200-300 agreements.

There is a general perception that a huge chunk of budget allocation goes for funding guarantee schemes, and development has taken a backseat. Ruling party MLAs have also expressed their displeasure that funds are not being utilised. What is your take?

What is development for, after all? Development is not just construction of flyovers in Bengaluru, or big buildings for the government or the rich. What is the expenditure on building airports? These infrastructure projects for the wealthy are not development alone. If you're really interested in development, then ensure the poor also enjoy their lives. If they don't get two square meals a day, what is the use of all these big things? I am proud that the government has given a guarantee scheme that has made a remarkable change in the country. For the first time in India, over one crore people in Karnataka have been uplifted from below poverty line to lower middle or even higher middle class category. This is a revolution, this type of revolution in the country is real development. The government gives Rs 5,000 a month to people belonging to poor families and their education, health and social needs are met. What more is required? Yes, development might have gone a little back, taken a backseat, but we should understand this development also.

Can the guarantee schemes be sustained in the long run? We must muster the capacity to sustain the guarantee schemes.

These are two different issues. The Valmiki Corporation scandal does get us worried. The government will not tolerate this type of scam when we are talking of zero-tolerance for corruption. But with the MUDA issue, some wrong publicity is going on. It is not sites allotted to the chief minister's family, but return of the property acquired by MUDA; that is a dis-

Your take on alleged irregularities in MUDA and ST Corporation...

These are two different issues. The Valmiki Corporation scandal does get us worried. The government will not tolerate this type of scam when we are talking of zero-tolerance for corruption. But with the MUDA issue, some wrong publicity is going on. It is not sites allotted to the chief minister's family, but return of the property acquired by MUDA; that is a dis-

tinct reason why this is not a scam. It is wrong publicity which will be cleared by a couple of more statements by the CM.

When will elections to local bodies, especially BBMP, ZPs and TPs be held?

The government is keen on holding elections. Discussions on reservation for president and vice-president posts have started. On BBMP polls, cases are going on in courts and once cleared, elections will be held.

What are the features of the new Law & Policy 2023?

The law policy was last drawn up in 2005. Through 'Law & Policy 2023, A Stride to Redeem the Pledge', we intend to address several significant issues that were not focused on earlier: Despite attaining freedom and speaking about human rights, we have not questioned the practices introduced by the British in the legal system. That will be changed with the new policy. It proposes to increase the number of courts and focus on increasing constitutional literacy. We must reap the benefits of the Constitution, in terms of life and dignity. That will be our major thrust. Through our laws we are going to take justice to the doorsteps of people, and ensure speedy disposal of cases. We intend to have litigation-free villages, which we will achieve by making use of law institutions and bar associations. Also, law colleges will be increased and a Lawyers' Training Academy will be set up in North Karnataka. A Directorate of Legal Education will also be set up. These will be done within the next four years.

In the last two polls, we have seen campaigns filled with animosity. Do you feel this compromises parliamentary democracy?

There is no animosity, but there are political fights. In states like Karnataka, there are blame games or individual accusations. If you recall SM Krishna's regime, personal allegations were very few and even if there was one, it was taken to a logical end, like an apology or resignation. However, now things are deviating from that decent line, which is not healthy for democracy.

EXPRESS Dialogues

the bills were passed, we saw that the home minister did not care for the serious points we had raised. Not only in Karnataka, but Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Telangana too, almost all people in South India have opposed these three Bills. Lawyers are also agitated. There is some inconvenience due to changes in the title and clauses, which affect the court's functioning.

Is this the only objection?

The three bills give a message that the Centre has made our society a 'Police State'. It has given enormous powers to the police. Today in India, we are talking of a citizen-friendly government, citizen-friendly police, human rights, honour and respect for citizens. Now police can detain a person for 90 days, and have powers to attach properties. This was earlier with the judiciary. First Information Report registration

tion, or to find ways in the Constitution.

What about constitutional remedy?

Article 254 of the Constitution gives enormous opportunity to states to amend the IPC, CrPC and Evidence Act, which are parental Acts. Since we have that opportunity, we would like to amend these laws and send them to the President for assent. We are discussing this with legal experts and have held meetings with the Advocates' Association. This will also be placed in the upcoming assembly session.

What are the positive aspects of the new laws?

Just the name has changed from Indian to Bharatiya. There is nothing new. Over 90 per cent is the name, only the language has changed. The 10 per cent that has been changed, has nothing good for society. It

FACT-FIND

One-man panel of retired HC judge to probe MUDA scam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A day before the monsoon session of the legislature to begin, the state government on Sunday issued a notification to constitute a single-man commission of retired High Court judge Justice PN Desai to investigate alleged irregularities in the allotment of alternative sites by the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

The notification, issued by the Urban Development Department, stated that irregularities related to MUDA site allotment have been reported in the media. To probe this, the Desai commission has been constituted under the Commission of Inquiry Act. The commission will have all the powers to conduct the probe under the Code of Civil Procedure. The terms of reference for the commission will be released later.

The notification also directed officials to provide technical, financial and administrative advisors to the commission, for which the Urban Development Department and MUDA should cooperate. Over the last few days, opposition parties have been slamming Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for the alleged involvement of his wife Parvati in the MUDA alternative site allotment scam. They have been demanding his resignation too.



GRAND ENTRANCE

A newly designed door at the west gate of the Vidhana Soudha is all set to welcome legislators for the monsoon session on Monday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Revenue officials at same place for 5 yrs to be moved

ENS @Bengaluru

THE Karnataka government will transfer officials from the Revenue department who have been working at the same place and in the same post for the past five years. Revenue Minister Krishna Byregowda has instructed DCs to prepare a list of such officials.

He said he had instructed all DCs to submit a list of revenue officers who are serving at the same location for long periods and who have public complaints against them. "I have received complaints from the public about some officers who have been serving in the same location for a long period," he said. Meanwhile, Principal Secretary to the Revenue department Rajender Kumar Kataria has written a letter to all DCs, noting that CM Siddaramaiah

had convened a meeting with all DCs and Chief Executive Officers. The CM had directed officials to resolve people's issues in their districts, and get things done by officials working under them in their districts. The CM also warned officials that if they don't work effectively or are lethargic, action will be taken against them.

During the meeting, the CM pointed out that many employees have been working in the same place, but not as per expectation. There have been complaints against such officials. Kataria said DCs should prepare a list of such officials who have been working in the same place for more than five years, and if there are any complaints against them. The same is to be furnished to the state government and has to be done on "priority", Kataria said.

'Stormy' monsoon session from today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

WITH the monsoon session beginning from Monday, the ruling Congress and opposition BJP and JDS are gearing up for a head-to-head confrontation in the Assembly and Council.

With many issues, including the recent MUDA site scam -- allegedly involving Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his family, going to come to the fore, the nine-day session is expected to be chaotic.

A coordination committee meeting of BJP and JDS, held in Bengaluru recently, was attended by Union ministers HD Kumaraswamy and Pralhad Joshi, Leader of Opposition R

Ashoka and others. The two alliance partners, for whom this is the first session working as a united opposition block, decided that the government should be cornered in both Houses.

Apart from the MUDA scam, they are expected to raise issues like irregularities in the Maharshi Valmiki ST corporation that led to the resignation of minister B Nagendra, the law and order situation in the state, increase in prices of certain commodities and more.

'No junior officials'

Siddaramaiah, who met senior officials on Sunday, told them to attend the session personally and to help ministers provide effective answers to



CM Siddaramaiah speaks with DCM DK Shivakumar at an all-party meeting at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

opposition queries. He told them not to depute junior level officials to the session.

The additional chief secretary, principal secretary and secretaries of all the depart-

ments attended the meeting at the chief minister's official residence.

Siddaramaiah told them that it is not a budget session as the budget was passed in the previous session. This would mean that opposition members would raise many issues, and officials should be ready with relevant data to counter these allegations. He also got a list of probable issues that the opposition could raise.

On Sunday, he warned officials against taking leaves during the session.

Chief Secretary, Rajneesh Goel, who retires in about a fortnight and for whom this could be the last legislature session while holding the top post, attended the meeting.

COME JULY 22, ANGANWADIS WILL HAVE LKG, UKG CLASSES

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Karnataka Government is slated to begin Montessori classes at anganwadi centres

in the state, Women and Child Welfare Minister **Laxmi Hebbalkar** said on Sunday. According to this plan, lower kindergarten and upper kindergarten classes will be accommodated at 250 Anganwadi centres, symbolically, on July 22. Hebbalkar added that life insurance schemes for Anganwadi workers are also on the anvil.

Elaborating, the minister said the state's anganwadi centres, especially those that

are 30 years and older, would undergo upgrades. As a part of that plan, 250 centres have been shortlisted, where LKG and UKG classes will be introduced this year, starting July 22. With this, Karnataka would emerge as a model state for others, she mentioned.

Hebbalkar also said that pre-kindergarten classes would also be started at anganwadi centres. Accordingly, the children would be provided books, bags and uniforms by the Women and Child Welfare Department. The Montessori classes here will be more safe for children, she stressed. Further, there are plans to start Mon-

tessori classes in 20,000 government schools in the first phase. "(However), this should not impede the growth of anganwadi centres, and therefore, we have decided to upgrade them," she added.

Reiterating that no anganwadi teachers will be removed, she said the students at these centres are being given quality food, while teachers also get sarees. Speaking about other benefits given to anganwadi workers, the minister said they are going to take a call on providing life insurance cover to anganwadi workers. "We are going to discuss it with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. We are also going to discuss about increasing honorarium with the CM," she said.

EXPRESS READ

Cong delegation fails to meet Vijayendra

BENGALURU: A delegation of Congress leaders led by KPCC media chief Ramesh Babu tried in vain to meet BJP state president BY Vijayendra on Sunday. Police stopped them outside Vijayendra's house. Also, he was not at home. The leaders wanted to insist that Vijayendra raise the issue of former PM HD Deve Gowda's family allegedly being allotted 48 sites by MUDA, in the monsoon session. With Vijayendra said to be in New Delhi, the delegation handed over a memorandum along with documents to the police to be forwarded to the BJP state chief. Ramesh Babu said, "In 2011, former CM BS Yediyurappa had approached Council chairman DH Shankaramurthy with evidence to order a probe against Gowda's family. Vijayendra should raise that issue now."

Ratna Bhandar locks broken after 4 decades

One of the three locks to inner chamber was sealed, lock needed to be broken, says temple's chief administrator

DIANA SAHU @ Bhubaneswar

FOUR decades after it was opened for the last time, the Bhitara Bhandar or inner chamber of Shree Jagannath temple's Ratna Bhandar was finally reopened by the 11-member expert committee on Sunday. The committee members, however, had to break the locks to enter the chamber.

Justice Biswanath Rath, who heads the panel to supervise inventory and conservation of the valuables in the Ratna Bhandar, said there were three locks in the inner chamber of which only one was sealed. Temple chief administrator Arabinda Padhee said as the three locks could not be opened with the available two keys, they had to be broken. "We went inside the Bhitara Bhandar and saw that the jew-

els, ornaments and other valuables have been stored in almirahs and chests," Padhee said, without commenting on the structural condition of the chamber.

Before entering the temple for Ratna Bhandar opening, the committee members visited the Gundicha temple and offered prayers to the Trinity, who are on their annual sojourn to their aunt's house. Their entry into the treasury at the auspicious time of 1.28 pm was marked by all attached rituals. The team was accompanied by a unit of ODRF personnel equipped with flashlights, cutting tools and other gadgets, three snake helpline members and other support staff.

A four-layer security cordon was laid and devotees were prohibited from entering the temple at the time. Servitors en-



The chests placed outside the Jagannath temple just before the reopening of 'Ratna Bhandar' after 46 years, in Puri on Sunday | EXPRESS

gaged in other temples located on the premises though were allowed to perform the rituals of the deities. Earlier in the morning, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi took to X (formerly Twitter) and expressed happiness over the reopening of Ratna Bhandar. "Today, after 46 years, as per your (Lord Jagannath's) will, the

Ratna Bhandar has been opened with a greater purpose. I strongly believe that this work will be successful," he said.

Law minister Prithviraj Harichandan also visited the temple at 2.30 pm to take stock of the arrangements. After the team came out, Padhee said, the jewels and ornaments of Bhitara Bhandar will be shifted to the

temple's Khata Seja Ghara, which has been designated as the temporary strongroom for keeping the valuables of the inner chamber. "Since shifting of the valuables needs a lot of time, it will be done another day. As per the procedure, shifting of all the valuables of the Bhitara Bhandar has to be done in its entirety and we did not have that much time today," he said and added, the chamber was locked with two locks and the keys handed over to the district collector to be deposited in the Puri district treasury.

Justice Rath said since Bahuda, Suna Besha and other rituals of the Trinity are scheduled from Monday, the expert team and managing committee will meet again after 7-8 days to fix the next date for opening the Bhitara Bhandar and shifting the valuables.



Motorists brave heavy rain in Kozhikode on Sunday | E GOKUL

Heavy rain across Kerala; Red alert in Malappuram, Kannur

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ T'Puram

THE IMD has forecast widespread rainfall across Kerala until July 18, with northern districts expected to see heavy rainfall on Monday. Red alerts have been issued for Malappuram, Kannur, and Kasaragod, indicating potential rainfall of up to 20 cm in 24 hours.

Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Kozhikode, and Wayanad are under an orange alert. Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, and Idukki may experience up to 11 cm of rainfall due to isolated heavy downpours. Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) warned against high wave alert in Kannur and Kasaragod.

IMD has also issued orange alerts for Kannur, Kasaragod, and Kozhikode on Tuesday, and for Kannur, Kasaragod, Kozhikode, and Malappuram on Wednesday. The rain is expected to moderate on July 18 as per the latest prediction. According to forecast the widespread rainfall till July 18 is strengthening of westerly wind due to the presence of off-shore trough running along south Gujarat-north Kerala coasts at mean sea level, a cyclonic circulation lies over Gangetic West Bengal and adjoining Jharkhand and Odisha in lower and middle tropospheric levels and low pressure at South China sea.

"The monsoon has gained strength due to the strengthening of wind on the coasts of Maharashtra to Kerala for the next 2-3 days. As a result rain and wind get stringer in high ranges," said Rajeevan Erikulam, a meteorologist with the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority. Strong Winds with speed reaching 30-40, gusting to 50 kmph likely to prevail occasionally in the state during the period.

HUSBAND ARRESTED FOR FAKING FAMILY'S DEATH

Khammam: Raghunadhapalem police uncovered the road accident incident as cold-blooded murder. According to Khammam ACP SV Ramanamurthy, police received information about a supposed road accident between Manchukonda-Haryatanda villages in Raghunadhapalem mandal on May 28, 2024. The police rushed to the spot and found the deceased wife and two children, alongside the husband who sustained minor injuries. The family had been travelling in a car that collided with a roadside tree. However, suspicions rose over the nature of the incident. During inquiries, it was found out that the husband, Boda Praveen (32), a physiotherapist working in Hyderabad, had married Boda Kumari, with whom he had two daughters. But Praveen had developed an illicit relationship with Sony Francis, a colleague. Feeling that his wife and children were obstacles to his illicit relationship, Praveen decided to eliminate them. The police arrested Praveen, and presented him before the court.

Fares last revised in 2019, says KSRTC chairman

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SRINIVAS said, "It has been five years since bus fares have been revised as it was last done in 2019. The fare increase is inevitable as fuel prices have gone up, and also, corporations need to give salary hikes and provide benefits to their employees. Salaries of KSRTC employees were to be revised in 2020, but have not been done so far. If KSRTC has to survive, this hike is necessary.

The proposal has been sent to the government, and it is left to the discretion of the chief minister," He tried to defend the decision, saying the fare hike would not burden male passengers, who have to pay, as women in their families are allowed to travel free under the Shakti scheme. "A proposal to procure 40 new Volvo buses has been submitted to the government. So far, 600 regular buses have been acquired," he added.

5 days on, body of 8-yr-old yet to be traced

K MADHU SUDHAKAR @ Nandyal district

EVEN after five days, there is no trace of the body of the eight-year-old girl who was allegedly raped and murdered by three minor boys, who reportedly pushed the body into the canal in Muchumarri village of Nandyal district.

Continuing the search operations with the help of NDRF and SDRF personnel, the police have intensified their investigation into the case, questioning the accused's family members and others. Meanwhile, people of the village started suspecting the involvement of the elders of the accused's families in disposing of

the victim's body.

Generally, when a crime occurs, the police book the case and search for the culprits. And they go to great lengths to find and apprehend them, making every effort to catch them.

But in the case of Muchumarri girl's rape and murder, the story is very strange. Despite the culprits being in police custody and confessing to the crime, the situation has arisen where even the victim's body has not been found.

The incident happened in Muchumarri village of Pagidala mandal of Nandyal district on July 7, but the search operation started on July 10 after the police got some information about

the rape and murder during their inquiry.

Despite efforts for the last five days, the police could not any clue of tracing the dead body in the River water or any other places where the accused claimed to have disposed of the body. It was during police questioning that the accused minors confessed to having committed the crime and another girl, a playmate of the victim, was witness to the incident.

Though police are not hopeful of finding the body in the river, but are continuing the search operations and in the meantime intensified their investigation to ferret out the real facts from the accused and their families.

Bank of Baroda
Banashankari Branch
Bengaluru

(A Government of India undertaking)

POSSESSION NOTICE
(FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY ONLY)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Bank of Baroda, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sec 13(12) read with Rule-3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued Demand Notice dated 14.02.2024 calling upon the Borrower **Shri Gottigere H. Sridhar**, S/o. Dr. G. V. Honnappa, Smt. **Shalini Sridhar**, W/o. Gottigere H. Sridhar, **Ms. Nidhi Sridhar** D/o. Gottigere H. Sridhar, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being under of **Rs 65,87,665.01** (Rupees Sixty Five lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Five and Paise One Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the **9th day of July of the year 2024.**

The borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of Baroda for an amount of **Rs 65,87,665.01** (Rupees Sixty Five lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Five and Paise One Only) and interest thereon at the contractual rate plus cost, charges and expenses till date of payment.

The borrower's attention is invited to sub-section (8) of Section 13 in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of the property bearing commercial Building at Site No. 2596/2, BBMP PID No. 194-V0833-06, BBMP Khata No. 2454/22/12596/2/1, Conversion Sy. No. 22/1, measuring East to West 84 ft. and North to South (80+78)/2 ft. of, Gottigere Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on the North by: G V Shankar Property, on the South by: 20 ft Road, On the East by: Bannerghatta Road, On the West by: By sri G H Nareish kumar Share Western side Site No, 2596/2.

Sd-Authorized Officer
Bank of Baroda,
Banashankari Branch

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 09.07.2024

Bank of Baroda
Banashankari Branch
Bengaluru

(A Government of India undertaking)

POSSESSION NOTICE
(FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY ONLY)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Bank of Baroda, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sec 13(12) read with Rule-3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued Demand Notice dated 14.02.2024 calling upon the Borrower **Shri Gottigere H. Sridhar**, S/o. Dr. G. V. Honnappa, Smt. **Shalini Sridhar**, W/o. Gottigere H. Sridhar, **Ms. Nidhi Sridhar** D/o. Gottigere H. Sridhar, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being under of **Rs 23,46,479.39** (Rupees Twenty Three lakhs Forty Six Thousand Four Hundred and Seventy Nine and Paise Thirty nine Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the **9th day of July of the year 2024.**

The borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of Baroda for an amount of **Rs 23,46,479.39** (Rupees Twenty Three lakhs Forty Six Thousand Four Hundred and Seventy Nine and Paise Thirty nine Only) and interest thereon at the contractual rate plus cost, charges and expenses till date of payment.

The borrower's attention is invited to sub-section (8) of Section 13 in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of the property bearing Western side site No. 2595/1, BBMP PID No. 194-W0833-6, BBMP Khata No. 2455/2595/1/1, Conversion Sy. No. 22/1, situated at Gottigere Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South, measuring East to West (75+116)/2 ft. and North to South (84+98)/2 ft. and adjacent vacant site measuring East to West 60 ft. and North to South (35+39) ft. and bounded on the North by: 20 ft Road, on the South by: G. V. Krishnamurthy Property, On the East by: 10 ft Road and GV Honnappa's property, On the West by: Sy. No. 20/1 Land property.

Sd-Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda, Banashankari Branch

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 09.07.2024

GENERAL PUBLIC

Our Clients namely **Sri. SANTHOSH C.N.** S/o. Narayan Gowda, aged about 39 years, residing at no.11, Sri Radhakrishna Layout, Govardhan Giri Cross, Tataguni, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bangalore - 560 062 and Sni. **NAGARAJU M.B.** S/o. Late. Boraiah, aged about 59 years, residing at Ward No.2, Mallaghatta, Kunigal Taluk, Tumkur District are intend to purchase the landed property bearing Sy.No.120 of Machohalli Village, measuring 4 acres 23 guntas, excluding 0-15 guntas of Karab land, situated at Machohalli Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk which is morefully described in the schedule hereunder and hereinafter called as a Schedule - A property and the landed property bearing Sy.No.122 of Machohalli Village, measuring 0-15-00 guntas, situated at Machohalli Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk which is morefully described in the schedule hereunder called as a Schedule- B property from its owner i.e. Smt. T.R.B. KOUSALYA, W/o. Late. T.R. Balasubramani, aged about 59 years, both are residing at No.209, 2nd Main Road, Mahalakshmi Layout, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560086.

Any person having right, title, interest, claim, objections or whatsoever in respect of the Schedule - A and B properties may file their objections with documentary proof to the undersigned within **10 days** from the date of publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the said period, my clients will proceed to complete the proposed sale transaction presuming that, above mentioned persons are the absolute owners of the Schedule - A and B properties and that there are no other Claimants.

SCHEDULE-A PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF The landed property bearing Sy.No.120 of Machohalli Village, measuring 4 acres 23 guntas, excluding 0-15 guntas of Karab land, situated at Machohalli Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk and bounded by:

East by : Sy.No.119 **West by :** Sy.No.121

North by : Magadi Main Road **South by :** Thippagondanahalli Pipeline.

SCHEDULE-B PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF The landed property bearing Sy.No.122 of Machohalli Village, measuring 0-15-00 guntas, situated at Machohalli Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk and bounded by:

East by : Road **West by :** Remaining portion of the Sy.No.122 and Sy.No. 121

North by : Road **South by :** B.K.

MAHANTHESH B.K. MAHANTHESH & ASSOCIATES,
Advocates & Legal Consultants
No.1771/3, 22nd Main, Opp. to Dr. Rajkumar Statue, Govindarajanagara
Bengaluru - 560 040. Mob: 9448017945. Date: 15-07-2024.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: 605/EEEE/MWD/AEE/CQ/HVR/2024-25/394-97 Date:10.07.2024

NOTIFICATION

KPTCL has formulated scheme under Electricity Act-2003 and the scheme is here by published. This notification is issued for the information of the concerned persons and general public.

I. Name of the work: Establishing 1X10MVA, 110/11KV Sub station at Nittur, Hirekerur Taluk, Haveri District and construction of 110KV LILO line with Lynx conductor from proposed 110KV Tiluvalli-Haunshavi SC line to proposed 110KV Sub station at Nittur for a distance of 5.013kms in Hirekerur Taluk, Haveri District.

1) Cost of the project: Rs. 1022.18Lakhs. 2) Need for Sub station and line: Quality of power supply and voltage improvement in and around Nittur and surrounding Villages. **3) Line passes through the villages:** Sudambi, Madlura, Nittur villages and surrounding areas. **4) Survey Nos.:** 53, 54, 69, 65, 66, 68, 101,102,103, 104, 99, 98, 97,32, 33,34, 36, 37, 39, 54, 49, 53, 61, 60, 63,242, 64,233, 235,234, 228, 226, 65, 62, 61, 60, 59, 58, 57, 40, 41, 35, 11.

II. Name of the work: Establishing 1X10MVA, 110/11KV Sub station at Balmbeeda and construction of 110KV LILO line using Lynx conductor from 110KV Haveri-Hangal SC line to proposed 110KV Balmbeeda Sub station for a distance of 0.875kms in Hangal Taluk, Haveri District.

1) Cost of the project: Rs. 817.46 Lakhs. 2) Need for Sub station and line: Quality of power supply and voltage improvement in and around Akkialur, Balmbeeda and surrounding Villages. **3) Line passes through the villages:** Havanagi, Balmbeeda villages and surrounding areas. **4) Survey No:** 183, 184, 171, 172.

KPTCL shall have and exercise all powers which the telegraphic authority's posses under part III of the telegraphic act 1885 for implementation of the above said schemes. Objections if any regarding the project shall be sent to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notification.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele.),
Major Works Division, Haveri District. KPTCL, Haveri.

P Sathya a 28-year-old woman from Dharapuram was arrested on Sunday for marrying 15 men. The complaint was filed by her husband Mahesh (29). He alleged that Sathya was helped by her friend in Dharapuram

ARMSTRONG'S MURDER

POLICE SHOOT SUSPECT DEAD

GAUTHAM SELVARAJAN @ Chennai

ONE of the eleven suspects in the Tamil Nadu BSP chief K Armstrong's murder case was killed in a police encounter when he allegedly tried to attack the police and escape near Puzhal on Sunday. This is the second incident of police encounter in Tamil Nadu within a week after a history sheeteer Durai alias Duraisamy was shot dead by the police near Pudukottai on Thursday.

The deceased man was identified as K Thiruvengadam (33) of Kundrathur, a history sheeteer.

He has a total of five cases pending against him, the police said. On Sunday morning, Thiruvengadam was being taken to his house in Manali where he had allegedly hidden the weapons that were used to attack and kill Armstrong.

As he was being taken with tight police strength, he asked to stop the vehicle to answer nature's call. According to the press note from the city police, when Thiruvengadam got out of the vehicle near

Retteri, he pushed the police personnel who were near him and escaped.

He fled to a thatched hut in a place called Vegetarian Village near Puzhal.

The police traced him and surrounded the hut when he opened fire at them with a country-made pistol that he had hidden there, the police said. In 'self defence', the police shot him and Thiruvengadam sustained injuries, the police added. He was rushed to a private hospital nearby where he was declared dead.

The Puzhal police registered a case and produced the FIR before the judicial magistrate. This comes

days after A Arun in his first press briefing said that the police would 'speak in a language that rowdies understood'. He said that one of his main priorities was to curb rowdysm. When asked by reporters whether it meant police encounters, he said, "No, there are no encounters."

The death comes at a time when Armstrong's friends have been repeatedly raising doubts over the arrested persons being the real culprits.

EXPRESS READ

40-yr-old man rapes six-month-old in Andhra, held

Vizianagaram: In a shocking incident, a six-month-old infant was raped by a 40-year-old man in Ramabhadrapuram mandal on Saturday. According to Bobbili DSP Srinivas Rao, the girl's mother had gone to a nearby grocery store along with her 10-year-old daughter when the incident took place. The mother reached home and confronted the accused, who escaped. The mother lodged a complaint, after which he was arrested.

KMMML The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd		
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam 691583		
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 217 e-mail: md@kmmml.com		
TENDER NOTICE		
For more details please visit: E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmmml.com		
No.	Tender ID	Item
1	2024_KMMML_679352	For the supply of 80,000/- Nos of Polythene Product Bags
2	2024_KMMML_679953	For the supply of Pipe spool PTFE both ends flanged
3	2024_KMMML_679327	For the supply of Support Roller with Shaft (in assembled condition) for K-302 Calciner Cooler-4 Nos
4	2024_KMMML_680328	For the supply of Nose Ring for Roaster-1 No
5	2024_KMMML_680021	For the supply of PTFE Lined Plug Valves and Teflon Sleeved Plug valves
6	2024_KMMML_680221	For the supply of Stack Segments for New Roaster
7	2024_KMMML_679812	For the supply of Stack Segments for Old Roaster
8	2024_KMMML_679699	For fabrication & supply of Sulphuric Acid Storage Tank F-557
9	2024_KMMML_679690	For the supply of Three Phases Relay Test System

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

KPTCL invites Sealed tenders in duplicate from Manufacturer/Experience/Authorized service Agency for the following works.

No. 938/C/TL&SS/EE(E)/AE(T)/24-25/F-49/1342-44 Dated : 11.07.2024

Name of the work : Supply, retrofitting, testing and commission of Distance protection relay for 110 KV Ainapur line at 220/110-11 KV Kudachi. **Particulars :** Distance relay details, Make : Approved vendor, Operating voltage : 220 V DC, CT : 1/5 Amps Suitable for 110 KV line. **Qty :** 01 Number

No. 938/C/TL&SS/EE(E)/AE(T)/24-25/F-49/1345-47 Dated : 11.07.2024

Name of the work : Refilling of SF-6 gas in existing 50 Kgs cylinder at Athani and Raibag nodal stations total 6 No. **Particulars :** 50 Kg SF-6 Gas cylinder. **Qty :** 06 Numbers

No. 938/C/TL&SS/EE(E)/AE(T)/24-25/F-49/1348-50 Dated : 11.07.2024

Name of the work : Repair/Overhauling of 3 No of 11 KV ABB make PCVCB's at 110/11 KV Hattaragi. **Particulars :** Breaker details, Make : ABB, Type : PCVCB, Voltage : 12KV Current : 800Amps **Qty :** 03 Numbers

No. 938/C/TL&SS/EE(E)/AE(T)/24-25/F-49/1351-53 Dated : 11.07.2024

(1) Particulars : DC Supervision (80) relay for 11 KV F-4 feeder at 220 KV AEQUS. **Specification :** Make: Approved vendor, Vx(1)- 110-125V AC/DC, Vx(2)- 220-250 V AC/DC **Qty :** 01 Number **(2) Particulars :** Earth fault relay for 11 KV Feeders. **Specification :** Make: Approved vendor, In: 1A, 110 V DC **Qty :** 06 Numbers **(3) Particulars :** Over current relay for 11 KV feeder. **Specification :** Make: Approved vendor, In:1A, 110 V DC **Qty :** 01 Number **(4) Particulars :** Master trip relay for 11 KV feeder. **Specification :** Make: Approved vendor, In:1A, 110 V DC **Qty :** 01 Number **(5) Particulars :** Over current relay for 20 MVA Transformer. **Specification :** Make: Approved vendor, In:0.5-2A, 110 V DC, Type:CDG **Qty :** 01 Number

No. 938/C/TL&SS/EE(E)/AE(T)/24-25/F-49/1372-74 Dated : 11.07.2024

Name of the work : Supply,retrofitting,testing and commission of Distance protection relay for 110 KV Incomer line at 110/33-11 KV Galataga. **Particulars :** Distance relay details, Make: Approved vendor, Operating voltage:110 V DC, CT : 1/5 Amps, Suitable for 110 KV line. **Qty :** 01 Number

The undersigned may be contacted for tender closing date and tender opening date and other condition within office hour on working days

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele.),
TL & SS Division, KPTCL, Vidyuth Nagar,
Chikkodi - 591201

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

TASK CUT OUT FOR PRACHANDA-MUKT NEPAL COALITION GOVERNMENT

WHEN two polar opposites of Nepal's politics came together last week, they ended the spectacle of the tail wagging the dog and threw up a new coalition government that on paper appears sturdy. That Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', 69, with just 32 seats in parliament—where the simple majority figure stands at 138—managed to stay as PM for so long was a testimony to his skills in alternatively playing the two biggest parties in the House against each other. With the two-cats-and-a-monkey story manifesting, the loaf of bread to be shared equitably between the felines invariably ended in the wily Prachanda's mouth. While the Nepali Congress led by Sher Bahadur Deuba, 78, has 88 seats, the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist with K P Sharma Oli, 72, at the helm has 77. Taken together, they add up to 165 seats—comfortably past the simple majority mark. But they are like water and oil; Deuba pro-India and Oli pro-China. Apart from their king-sized egos, their trust deficit is near-total and their opposite ideologies can never mix. Yet, the alchemy of political compulsion brought the two together and cut the monkey out, though a possible foreign hand was the catalyst. Oli and Deuba have since agreed on rotational prime minister-ship, with the former leading the government in the first half.

Corruption probes opened by the Prachanda government against biggies in both the parties are said to be the immediate trigger for their new bond. Those probes would likely be buried and new dirt dug up against the outgoing government. Prachanda was a Marxist guerrilla leader before he entered the political mainstream. Would the politics of vendetta push him back to the bloody cycle of violence and gore is anybody's guess.

A Beijing hand was visible in Prachanda approving an agreement on a rail link with China a day before he lost the trust vote. But Nepal's new pragmatic policy is to accept foreign grants alone, not debt. In his last shot as PM, Oli indulged in cartographic aggression against India by producing a revised national map that included three villages in Uttarakhand. Whether Deuba would be able to moderate Oli's baiting of India following Chinese prodding remains to be seen. Amid growth pangs, land-locked Nepal's perennial political instability produced 14 governments in the past 16 years. It deserves better.

TIME TO SETTLE AP-T'GANA BIFURCATION ISSUES

THE recent meeting between Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and his Telangana counterpart A Revanth Reddy was fruitful in the sense that it raised hopes of finding an amicable solution to unresolved issues between the two states hanging fire for the last decade. Ever since the creation of Telangana in 2014, efforts have been made by both the States as well as the Centre to resolve problems such as division of assets and settlement of dues, but no common ground could be found on most for various reasons. The Revanth-Naidu bonhomie, though, may finally seal a deal since both have been on good terms for a long time.

As we pointed out in these columns earlier, the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2014, by which the state of Telangana was carved out of AP, hasn't yet been fully implemented in letter and spirit. Major issues such as construction of the multi-purpose Polavaram irrigation project in Andhra still persist as there are questions on the funding for relief and rehabilitation of displaced people. Similarly, the promise of establishing steel plants in both states is stuck because of Centre-state differences. Those have to be resolved with the cooperation of the Centre. What Revanth and Naidu will have to do is clear-cut: arrive at an acceptable solution to the division of assets listed in Schedule IX and X of the AP Reorganisation Act, settling outstanding dues and adopting a give-and-take approach in river water sharing. Both CMs have decided to meet up periodically and agreed to constitute two panels, one of officials and another of ministers, to go through each and every pending problem. If followed through, this will help both sides enormously. One may wonder why it has taken a decade for both parties to tackle the bull by the horns. Reasons are mainly political and bureaucratic. The parties in power should not let political considerations come in the way of resolving inter-state disputes.

Telangana and Andhra are two separate states now and people-to-people contacts are immense. There is no animosity towards one another. In these circumstances, the best interests of the people of both states ought to be kept in mind. To treat any attempts at addressing pending issues as surrendering the interests of a state does no good to anyone. To avoid this, we suggest the governments in both states involve the opposition parties as well and solicit their views. With grace and magnanimity, both can solve most of the issues without going to courts.

QUICK TAKE

RETURN TO DECENCY

DECENCY is an inevitable casualty when polarisation peaks. In today's social media era, the resultant textual and visual violence can quickly get out of hand—at times leading to physical attacks and mob fury. So when US President Joe Biden condemned the attempt on his opponent Donald Trump's life on Saturday, it indicated a much-needed toning down. Trump's rare call for "national unity" means the coin has dropped on the other side too. Similarly, Rahul Gandhi's appeal to refrain from trolling Smriti Irani is a necessary healing gesture. Political leaders need to constantly tell their followers to stay within the line of decency even while fulminating against their fiercest foes.

IN the just-concluded session of the new parliament, there was one odd historical coincidence and remembrance that created some noise but not enough debate. Om Birla, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, immediately after he was elected on June 26, moved a resolution condemning the Emergency of 1975. He also led the observation of a two-minute silence, quite unprecedented, and described it as a "dark period" in Indian democracy.

What Birla did was seize the opportunity that June 26 offered—the day Indira Gandhi inaugurated her dictatorial rule in 1975. This was not just an annual reminder, but also marked the beginning of the countdown to the 50 years since the Emergency was proclaimed. Symbolism was written all over Birla's move. Expectedly, it did not go down well with the Congress.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's words on the occasion unambiguously captured the significance of the act of mourning the historical happening. For him, personally, and for his 10-year-old regime, constantly accused of being authoritarian, it was about turning the tables on the Congress and pulling them down from the moral perch they had come to occupy during the election campaign.

Modi said: "It was also a wonderful gesture to stand in silence in honour of all those who suffered during those days... It is important for today's youth to know about it because it remains a fitting example of what happens when the Constitution is trampled over; public opinion is stifled and institutions are destroyed. The happenings during the Emergency exemplified what a dictatorship looks like." Obviously, his target was the younger generation, who he suspected to have innocuously walked into frames created by the Congress against him.

The Congress during the poll campaign made the Constitution a political symbol, with an eye mostly on Dalit and backward class votes. They argued Modi wouldn't hesitate to alter the Constitution and its quota guarantees if he was put back on the saddle with huge numbers. Besides, Rahul Gandhi had waved his little red book, a pocket-version of the Constitution, all through the campaign, and also at Modi when he took oath in the Lok Sabha.

On June 26, it was as if Rahul Gandhi was being reminded of his party and his dynasty's democratic record. Standing up in silence was a powerful act, conceived to perhaps unambiguously register in the minds of younger generations as to when, and what, the real threat to democracy

One side of India's political divide is reaffirming its faith in the Constitution, while the other is pointing to the Emergency. But one must remember that each bend in history is different

THE EMERGENCY AND ITS MORAL EQUIVALENCE

SUGATA SRINIVASARAJU

Senior journalist and author of *Strange Burdens: The Politics and Predicaments of Rahul Gandhi*



SOURAV ROY

was. It was also perhaps intended to drive home that everything being said about the Modi regime now was mere propaganda, rehearsed to wash off Congress' guilt from the past, and to deliberately create amnesia about a real event in contemporary history. What it perhaps meant is that the jibe 'undeclared Emergency under Modi' was nothing but a perception manufactured by an old establishment to desperately counter an indelible fact of history. This line became even more apparent in Modi's two speeches to the parliament during the motion of thanks to the President's address.

However, the more curious aspect of this contestation is, what should have been or be the Congress' response to this? Should it be angry each time it is raised? Should it continue to draw a feeble equiv-

alence between then and now? Should it be in denial and argue erroneously that the 1975 moment was far benign compared to what has happened since 2014? If it keeps saying this, will it not erode, at some point, the party's credibility among its own allies, many of whom found political existence during the Emergency on an anti-Congress platform? Will they rewrite their own history?

On the contrary, should the Congress participate in future events that condemn the 1975 Emergency? Should it plainly say that it has learnt lessons from the past and evolved in the last five decades to protect the Constitution? After all, as early as January 1978, addressing a public meeting in Yavatmal in Maharashtra, Indira Gandhi took the "entire

THE AFFIRMATION OF MOTHERS AS GURUS



RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

a person of honour, spurns his mother Kaikeyi not just for the shame brought on him by her machinations but even more for the injustice and suffering she caused to a caring person like Rama, who was especially attached to her. But Rama and Sita are so gently behaved and without a trace of reproach when Kaikeyi meets them in Chitrakoot that it stuns Kaikeyi. These two young adults, a man of 24 and a woman of 18, behave like mothers to her with kindness and consideration.



The mother is revered as one's first guru in the saying 'mata-pita-guru-deva'. Usually, it is she who teaches us not only the a-b-c-d of existence but also our human duty. In fact, the mother goddess appeared as the ultimate guru to seekers in many traditional stories

Like Valmiki, Adi Shankara, the acharya of acharyas in this tradition, must have felt deeply for Bharata's disgrace and appreciated Kaikeyi's change of heart. A clue to this conviction lies in Acharya's beautiful poem, *Sri Rama Bhujangam*. In it, Acharya alludes twice to Bharata as 'Kaikeyi-nandan' or 'Kaikeyi's joy', which shows a charming restorative intention.

In fact, the mother goddess appeared as the ultimate guru to seekers in the tradition. Two famous recipients of her grace and favour were Tenali Raman in 16th century Hampi, the capital of Vijayanagar; and Mahakavi Kalidas of 4th century Ujjain. It seems Kalidas evoked compassion in her and Tenali Raman, amusement. (If you

would like to re-read Kalidasa's story, please see Faithline, January 2, 2023, *A Tale of Devotion to Remember for the Ages*.)

Tenali Raman was born as Garlapati Ramakrishna. He did not receive formal education during his childhood, but became a great scholar due to his thirst for knowledge. The story goes that Vaishnava scholars rejected him as a disciple, as he was a Shaiva. Raman was however determined to get educated so he went to many pandits and begged them to accept him, but they called him names and threw him out. Later, while roaming in search of direction, he met a sage who advised him to worship Goddess Kali. He did so most earnestly.

The legend goes, Mother Kali appeared before him and was amused by his sense of humour. She blessed him that one day he would be acclaimed as a great poet in the imperial court of no less than Krishnadevaraya, emperor of Vijayanagar. It seems the goddess also gave him the title 'Vikatakavi' or Terrifying Poet, to mark his wit. Tenali Ramakrishna attained the status of a folk hero as the court poet of Krishnadevaraya, but he also composed serious works on religion.

Less known is Mooka Kavi, who lived in the 3rd century in Kanchipuram. Mooka Kavi was dumb from birth; but having obtained the grace of Kamakshi, whom he prayed to everyday, he burst forth into exquisite poetry. He sang 500 verses in praise of Sri Kamakshi in five *satakas*, meaning sections of 100 verses each. In the first *sataka*, the *Arya Sataka*, he says, "*Siva, Siva pasyanti samam Sri Kamakshi kataka-shitah purushah! Vipinam bhavananam amitram mitram loshtam cha yuvathi bim-bhosham*." This means, "O Shiva, what a wonder: Great men, blessed by the *kataka-sha* (benevolent look) of Kamakshi, regard with equal unconcern forest and palace, foe and friend, a piece of stone and the captivating lips of damsels."

My granny had his verses in her prayer book, in which I also found a postcard of Mary holding baby Jesus; an endearing affirmation, indeed, of mothers as gurus.

(Views are personal) (shebaba@gmail.com)

responsibility" for all the mistakes and excesses committed during the Emergency. But, she caveated it by saying she did what she did to save the nation.

Similarly, in March 2021, Rahul Gandhi admitted that the Emergency was a mistake but had again qualified it by saying the Congress "at no point had attempted to capture India's institutional framework". He was wrong there. The Emergency saw the worst corruption and capture of institutions—the ideas of a committed bureaucracy, a committed judiciary, and different forms of 'cham-chagiri' got entrenched at that point. Money and muscle unabashedly entered politics. It was also a moment in history that birthed the very idea of dynastic rule. Therefore, instead of a half-hearted, caveated admission, instead of presenting it as a reaction to a dire provocation, why not a straight, sincere admission of a mistake and move on?

Also, the phraseology of moral equivalence that is often used between 1975 and post-2014 is wrong. Each bend in history is different, if not exclusive. The circumstances, contexts and consequences are all different. Condemn the India under Modi and its democratic deficit by all means, if need be with a stronger formulation. But to present it in relation to the 1975 Emergency is self-defeating.

Noam Chomsky in a BBC interview in 2002, after September 11, put it across brilliantly: "Moral equivalence is a term of propaganda that was invented to try to prevent us from looking at the acts for which we are responsible... There is no such notion. There are many different dimensions and criteria. For example, there's no moral equivalence between the bombing of the World Trade Centre and the destruction of Nicaragua or of El Salvador, of Guatemala. The latter were far worse, by any criterion. So there's no moral equivalence. Furthermore, they were done for different reasons and they were done in different ways. There's all sorts of dimensions."

Incidentally, there was another remembrance in June that was forgotten. June 5, the day the poll results were struggling to settle down, was a day 50 years ago in 1974 when Jayaprakash Narayan had given the call for "total revolution". He had ended his speech in Patna by saying: "When a man loses his head, he thinks there is one man who is causing all the fire. The fire is already there, only you can't see it." The Opposition that brought sobriety to our democracy on June 4 had missed this reference in history.

(Views are personal) (sugata@sugataraju.in)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Major boost

Ref: *Oppn picks up 10 of 13 bypoll seats, keeps momentum* (Jul 14). The bypoll results showed that opposition parties thwarted BJP's hitherto successful strategy of weaning away opposition MLAs and making them stand in bypolls under the lotus symbol. This victory will give a major boost to the opposition. **P Victor Selvaraj, Palayamkottai**

Rectifying faults

NDA leaders have to take cognisance of the reverses that happened in these bypolls and make an honest attempt to rectify the faults in their party. This time was also a lesson to independent candidates of Himachal Pradesh, who withdrew support to the Congress to jump into the BJP bandwagon and were defeated by the electorate. **H P Murali, Bengaluru**

BJP's shortcomings

As expected in the Vikravandi bypolls, the ruling party in Tamil Nadu triumphed with a whopping margin. The results in TN and other states that held bypolls indicates that the people's disillusionment with the BJP still lingers. A raft of burning issues and its shortcomings have dwarfed the Emergency raised by the ruling party. **Rajamani Chelladurai, Tirunelveli**

Women's empowerment

Ref: *Giving divorced Muslim women their due* (Jul 14). The article was a great read. In the same vein as Shah Bano (which was attempted to be nullified by former congress PM Rajiv Gandhi) and the judgement against Triple Talaq, the present SC judgement is a step in the right direction. It goes a long way in ensuring Muslim women's empowerment and emancipation. **Hemanth D Pai, Bengaluru**

Reducing crowds

Reduced passenger movements at Secunderabad, Hyderabad Nampally and Kachiguda by opening the new Cherlapalli railway station in Hyderabad is certainly good. But the state government must also increase the number of local buses to the new station from different points to help passengers reach the place without delays. **Katuru Durga Prasad Rao, Hyderabad**

Telecom tariffs

The recent tariff hike by major telecom players ranging from 12.5% to 25% is a major setback for consumers. This highlights the monopolistic tendencies within the telecom market, as the three telecom giants captured almost 90% share in the telecom market. To address this, stronger regulatory oversight is needed. **Bishal Kumar Saha, email**

Cong picks Gogoi as deputy leader in LS, K Suresh chief whip

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

AHEAD of the Budget session of Parliament, the Congress on Sunday appointed Gaurav Gogoi as the deputy leader in Lok Sabha, senior Congress MP Kodikunil Suresh as the chief whip, and Virudhunagar MP Manickam Tagore and Kishanganj MP Mohammad Jawed as whips in the lower House.

Announcing the decision, AICC general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal said on X that Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi has written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla informing him about the appointment of the deputy leader, chief whip, and two whips for the Congress party in the Lok Sabha.

The party has retained Gogoi, the MP from Assam's Jorhat constituency, as the Lower House's deputy leader. Suresh, an eight-time MP from Kerala, has also retained his position as the party's chief whip in the 18th Lok Sabha.

Of the two whips named, Tagore is a three-time MP, while Jawed is a two-time MP from Bihar's Kishanganj seat. In a rare election to the Lok

Party counters PM's '8 crore jobs' remark

Countering the Prime Minister's claims of creating eight crore jobs in four years, the Congress on Sunday accused him of spinning a "web of lies". In an X post, party chief Mallikarjun Kharge said that the National Recruitment Agency (NRA) hasn't conducted a single exam after it was set up in 2020.

Sabha Speaker's post, the Opposition INDIA bloc had fielded Kerala MP Suresh against the ruling NDA's Birla.

Earlier, the party had named Rahul Gandhi as the Leader of Opposition, who was subsequently appointed to the post.

Congratulating the new appointees, Venugopal said, "Guided by LoP Rahul Gandhi, the Congress, and the INDIA parties will energetically champion people's causes in the Lok Sabha". The Budget session of Parliament, scheduled from July 22-August 12, is expected to be stormy as the Opposition asserts that it will raise crucial issues such as unrest in Manipur, irregularities in NEET, and the Agniveer scheme among others.

Nadda to continue as BJP chief until end of this year

Party set to roll out detailed electoral process before filling the post

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE BJP has outlined its plan to elect a new party president, with the current chief, Jagat Prakash Nadda, set to continue in his role until the end of 2024.

The party's constitution mandates a detailed electoral process that will conclude with the appointment of a new president by December 2024.

A senior BJP leader said the party would initiate a nationwide membership drive starting August 1 that will run until September 15. This will be followed by a second phase aimed at encouraging active membership from September 16 to 30.

The process of verification of these memberships will take place from October 1 to 15.

As per party norms, the process of renewing memberships, including those of high-ranking members such as Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is conducted every nine years.

The election process for the new party president will begin in earnest from November 10, with elections for mandal-level unit chiefs.

This will be succeeded by elections for district presidents from November 16 to 30. The



elected chiefs will then participate in the selection of members for the state and central councils, with these elections expected to start from December 1.

Sources said that following the completion of elections across states, the selection process for the new party president will begin.

While speculation about successors to Nadda continues, sources suggest that there could be a significant shift in the party's leadership. Projection is that the BJP might consider a woman from the OBC or SC category or a senior male leader for the role. The candidates being discussed are Maharashtra deputy CM Devendra Fadnis, Radha Mohan Singh, Dr. Sudha Yadav, Vinod

Tawde, Sunil Bansal, Rajnath Singh, and Dr. K. Laxman.

The phased approach would ensure that the BJP's organisational structure is robust and ready for the leadership transition. "The upcoming elections are crucial for the party as it prepares for future challenges," said a party leader.

Nadda has been appointed leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha. He was elected Rajya Sabha MP from Gujarat and holds the Health, Chemicals and Fertilisers portfolio in the Modi 3.0 cabinet, post 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Nadda's second term as party president officially ended in January 2024, but was extended until June 30 due to the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Under Nadda's leadership, the party had the highest strike rate in Bihar. The NDA won a majority in Maharashtra, won in Uttar Pradesh, and the party's presence increased in West Bengal. The party also registered a landslide victory in Gujarat.

Nadda started as the BJP working president in 2019 when then party chief Amit Shah became a Union minister. Nadda took up the full-time party presidency in 2020.

POWER GAMES



SHAHID FARIDI

The writer is Resident Editor, TNE, New Delhi. Follow him on X @ShahidFaridi.

Rajya Sabha LOP

CONG GAMBIT TO SHORE UP NUMBERS TO SAVE POST

The switchover of Kesava Rao from the Bharat Rashtra Party to Congress is part of the grand old party's plan to improve its tally in the Rajya Sabha to retain the post of Leader of the Opposition in the House. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge currently holds the post of LOP. But after the election of party leaders KC Venugopal and Deepender Singh Hooda to the Lok Sabha in the recent elections and their subsequent resignation from the Rajya Sabha, the Congress strength in the Upper House has come down to 26, just one more than the minimum 25 members required to qualify for the post. A day after joining Congress, Keshav Rao resigned as a BRS member of the Rajya Sabha. This has caused a vacancy from Telangana, which will be filled up by the Congress given its numbers in the state assembly. According to sources, Congress is trying to get more members from other parties from Telangana and Karnataka to resign and get them elected on its ticket.



BRICS Summit

RUSSIA, CHINA TO INSIST ON COMMON CURRENCY

BRICS president Russia and its close strategic and business ally China are likely to push for the launch of BRICS currency or the settlement of payments among member countries in their national currencies. Sources said that the payment settlement mechanism will be the central theme of the summit, scheduled to be held in the historic city of Kazan in the Tatarstan state of Russia from October 22-24, 2024. The five-member BRICS, comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, now has now been expanded to ten full members. The five new entrants are Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. About 30 other countries are ready to join the grouping. The joint statement issued after the meeting of the BRICS foreign ministers on June 10, this year underscored the importance of enhanced use of local currencies in trade and financial transactions between member countries. Russia, in its capacity as the current BRICS president, is likely to insist on the development of an alternative payment mechanism and payment platform to come out of the payment crisis faced by the country due to Western sanctions.

Haryana Assembly Polls

PRADHAN ASKS LEADERS TO REFLECT ON JAT ANGER

Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan has been engaging with the Haryana BJP's rank and file after being appointed as the state election in-charge by the party. He has held several meetings in the state. Sources who have attended these meetings said there are no holy cows in Pradhan's meetings. The role of every leader and all the strategies deployed by the party's state leadership are frankly and critically discussed. At one of the meetings, Pradhan said that he keeps hearing that the Jats are upset with the BJP, and added that the Jats were initially upset with Manohar Lal Khattar, but later turned against the entire BJP. He said the state leadership should contemplate on the mistakes made by the party that resulted in the loss of majority in the last assembly elections and the subsequent defeat in half of the Lok Sabha seats in the state. Pradhan's plainspeak has taken many in Haryana by surprise as no one dares evaluate Khattar's performance, let alone criticise it.



One-third of India sees deficit rainfall over a month after monsoon arrival

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

ONE-and-a-half months after the arrival of the Southwest monsoon, around 40% of districts covering the country's one-third area have received deficient rainfall, as per the latest data of the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The weaker monsoon has left the agrarian region of North-west, Central, and East Indian states high and dry.

As per the IMD, agriculturally crucial states such as Haryana, Punjab, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh registered deficit rainfalls in a large number of districts.

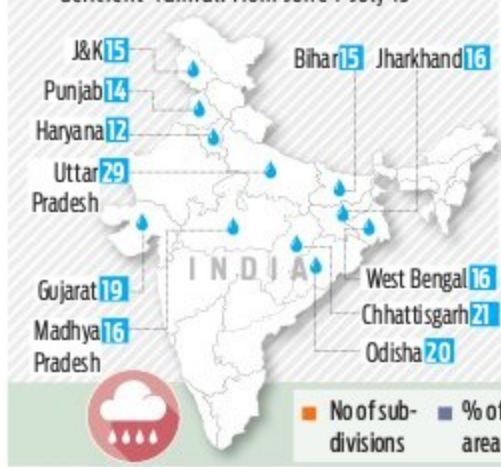
Uttar Pradesh saw deficient monsoon in 29 districts; Chhattisgarh in 21; Odisha 20; Gujarat 19; Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Jharkhand 16; Bihar 15, and Punjab 14.

About 33% of the total 729 districts registered deficient monsoon (when deficient rainfall is in a category -59% to -20% of the long-period average), while 5% of districts recorded large deficit rainfall (-99% to -60% category).

Currently, the deficient rainfall districts fall in 11 sub-meteorological divisions constituting 31% of the country's area.

LEAN PERIOD

No of districts with 'deficient' to 'large deficient' rainfall from June 1-July 13



However, 18 sub-meteorological divisions covering 53% of the country are under average category rainfall.

Ajeet Pandey, 34, a paddy farmer from Bihar's Patna district, is dejected over the monsoon's poor performance so far. In June, Patna recorded 77% rainfall deficit, whereas in Bihar, the overall deficit was 50%. In July, monsoon wind gained strength and minimised the overall huge gap to -31%. Yet, Bihar's 15 districts registered deficient rainfall.

"Unlike in June, we saw good monsoon over the first week of

July. But then after it started waning, denting our hope to grow paddy timely," he said.

Scientists at the IMD said the monsoon will regain strength after July 16. However, it will be primarily active in the Southern Peninsula, Central India and Western India.

The impact of deficient monsoon is also visible on the water storage level of the country's 150 major reservoirs. The overall storage position is less than the corresponding period of last year in the country and also less than the normal storage (10 years average).

MHA's cyber crime unit warns against fraudulent e-notices 'from govt'

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE cybercrime unit I4C under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has asked people that in case they receive a suspicious e-notice from a government office on the email, they should check the Internet to authenticate the official named in it and also call up the mentioned department to verify if they are genuine.

In a public advertisement, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the MHA cautioned that internet users should be aware of "fake emails" sent in the garb of a government e-notice, as it further alerted that they could be a con that can make people "a victim of cyber fraud".

Before responding to such mails, "check if the email has originated from an authentic government website that ends with 'gov.in'; check the internet for information regarding officials named in the email; and call the mentioned department to verify the email," the I4C said.

The notice said such suspicious emails and other types of

Counter measures

Before responding to such mails, "check if the email has originated from an authentic government website that ends with 'gov.in'; check the internet for information regarding officials named in the email; and call the mentioned department to verify the email," the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre suggested.

cyber frauds should be reported immediately to 'www.cyber-crime.gov.in' or call the cyber-crime helpline no 1930.

Earlier this month, the MHA had issued a public advisory alerting email users about fraudulent e-mails bearing names, signatures, stamps and logos of Delhi Police Cyber Crime and Economic Offence, Central Economic Intelligence Bureau, the Intelligence Bureau and Cyber Cell of Delhi.

A letter attached to these emails, as per the advisory issued on July 4, made allegations of child pornography, pedophilia, cyber pornography, sexually explicit exhibit, etc, against the emails' receivers.

Soon, zoom past barrier-free toll plazas on highways

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

WITH the introduction of barrier-free toll collection based on the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), highway users will be allowed to cruise through toll gates at high speed — up to 100 kmph — without inconvenience, according to officials of the road transport and highways ministry.

Initially one or two lanes will be available at fee plazas for the vehicles which opt for the soon-to-be-launched highway user fee collection arrangement, said a senior official involved in the operationalisation of the new system. "The government is hopeful that it will help in plugging the leakages and checking toll defaulters. The lanes will be equipped with advance reading, identification and enforcement equipment so that only the valid vehicles pass through the gates," the official said.

Under the GNSS-based collection system, toll is charged based on the distance travelled on the highways as against the existing method — one has to shell out a fixed amount even if the user travels a part of the toll road. The satellite-based system tracks vehicle's move-

THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENT

Representative image

Currently, electronic toll collection is done through RFID technology, branded as FASTag, which was launched in India in 2015

Since February 2021, FASTag has been made mandatory for the payment of user fees at NH toll plazas, with a provision for 100% penalty for cash or non-FASTag payments

As of March 2024, more than 98% of user fee payments are made through FASTag at the toll plazas



HOW GNSS-BASED SYSTEM WORKS

- The toll charger will receive pings (distance and time stamp) of GNSS vehicles through On Board Unit (OBU)
- The OBUs of GNSS vehicles will be onboarded with the toll charger through Fintech to be called "Issuer Entity" similar to the Issuer Banks under FASTag system
- The payment mechanism will be similar to the existing FASTag ecosystem

ment and calculates charges with the help of an On Board Unit embedded in the vehicles.

GNSS-based tolling is proposed, in the first phase, to be implemented for the commercial vehicles, and private vehicles will be included subsequently. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) recently invited global tender from innovative and qualified

companies to develop and implement GNSS-based toll collection. As per the notification, the interested companies can apprise the Indian Highways Management Company Limited, a firm promoted by NHAI, which has invited the tender.

The selected agency will develop a layout — including advance signages, markings, lighting, and placement of equipment

— of dedicated GNSS lanes within existing plazas to facilitate the GNSS-enabled vehicles without coming in conflict with the slow-moving Radio Frequency Identification-based vehicles passing through the corridors. The high-performance equipment will read vehicle registration number reading through Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras, identify vehicle — axle and type — estimate weight, and charge toll fee, officials said.

In the beginning, a hybrid model, including both RFID-based FASTag and GNSS-enabled toll collection, will operate simultaneously until the proposed arrangement is adopted smoothly. All lanes at fee plazas will eventually be converted to GNSS lanes, the officials said.

The NHAI is entrusted with maintenance and management of national highways of about 70,000 km length, out of the total network of 150,000 km.

Moreover, NHAI is mandated to collect user fees on these highways in accordance with the National Highway Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008. Currently, toll is collected for about 45,000 km of NHs and Expressways.

Don't promote unhealthy food items, nutrition advocacy body urges celebs

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

A national think-tank on nutrition, comprising independent medical experts, pediatricians and nutritionists, has written an open letter to 16 celebrities, including Aamir Khan, Alia Bhatt, Katrina Kaif, Ranveer Singh and MS Dhoni, urging them to stop promoting unhealthy food products high in sugar, salt and fat contents.

The Nutrition Advocacy in Public Interest (NAPI) stated that endorsing unhealthy food products contravenes advertising rules. They requested that celebrities review the government's Dietary Guidelines before promoting such items.

The open letter was also addressed to Kiara Advani, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Sidharth Malhotra, Diljit Dosanjh, Kapil Sharma, Tamanna Bhatia, Rahul Dravid, Kriti Sanon, Yash and Jasprit Bumrah.

NAPI highlighted the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, Section (28), which defines "misleading advertisement" as an advertisement that "deliberately conceals important infor-



50 shades of food ads

Referring to their latest report, '50 Shades of Food Advertisers,' NAPI said that many celebrities endorse unhealthy food products. The report noted that misleading ads for HFSS products are on the rise in India due to legal loopholes and lack of monitoring. It said their marketing often employs emotional appeals, celebrity endorsements, and sensory triggers to make them attractive.

Referring to their latest report, '50 Shades of Food Advertisers,' NAPI said that many celebrities endorse unhealthy food products. The report noted that misleading advertisements for high-fat, sugar, or salt (HFSS) products are on the rise in India due to legal loopholes and inadequate monitoring.

The study emphasized that unhealthy food and drink marketing often employs emotional appeals, celebrity endorsements, and sensory triggers to make these products seem attractive. In their open letter, NAPI stated, "Promotion of unhealthy food products is associated with unhealthy dietary practices as these are mostly high in sugars, salt, fats, and contain chemical additives." "These products are addictive. Increased consumption of such food products is linked to adverse health outcomes such as obesity, diabetes, cancers, and heart diseases," the letter continued.

	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	32	27	Mumbai	29	27
Bhopal	30	24	Panaji	28	25
Jaipur	35	27	Patna	32	28
Amritsar	38	28	Lucknow	33	27
Chennai	34	28	Port Blair	29	26
Kolkata	33	27	Imphal	27	23
Srinagar	32	18	Chandigarh	36	27

■ Cong to act against MLAs who cross-voted in council elections ■ Saffron huddle tries to figure out reasons for Lok Sabha debacle

Maha 'traitor' MLAs face action by MVA partners

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

AFTER losing one seat in the state council elections, a jolted Opposition in Maharashtra has decided to publish the names of the 13 MLAs who cross-voted, portraying them as 'gaddar' (traitors). A similar tactic was adopted by ex-CM Uddhav Thackeray against CM Eknath Shinde when the latter toppled the Uddhav government with BJP support.

In the biennial elections to the council, 13 MVA MLAs cross-voted for the BJP-led Mahayuti. That resulted in the ruling Mahayuti winning all the nine seats while Shiv Sena (UBT) and Congress won each and the Sharad Pawar-led NCP-supported Peasant Workers Party (PWP) candidate Jayant Patil lost despite having enough votes.

In the council elections, the MLAs are elected as per the strength of a party in the assembly. The average quota to get elected for an MLC was 23 votes. If a candidate fails to get the requisite number of votes, then the second preference votes are counted.

The total votes cast revealed that there were 13 MLAs belonging to the opposition MVA who cross-voted. They include seven from Congress, two from Sharad Pawar-led NCP, one



'Suspect MLAs given funds'

State Congress chief Nana Patole said "We came to know that two suspect MLAs were given funds by the ruling party. They were also assured that criminal cases against them would be dropped," said the Congress leader. "The party will not spare any such traitor." He pointed out it was hard to identify who cross-voted.

from Samajwadi Party, two MIM and one from Peasant and Workers Party.

State Congress chief Nana Patole said the party MLAs who cross-voted have been identified and a report is submitted to the party president recommending sacking of these "traitor" MLAs. However, he refused to reveal the names of all such party MLAs.

"In this election, four Congress MLAs voted against the party, but that was expected. We were surprised by the other three names. Some of them are close to former CM Ashok Cha-



van who left the Congress and joined the BJP before the Lok Sabha elections," said a senior Congress leader.

"We came to know that two suspect MLAs were given funds by the ruling party. They were also assured that criminal cases against them would be dropped," said the Congress leader. "The party will not spare any such traitor."

He said it was hard to identify who cross-voted. "We have, however, scanned all ballot papers and soon, these traitors' names will be put out in public domain," he said.

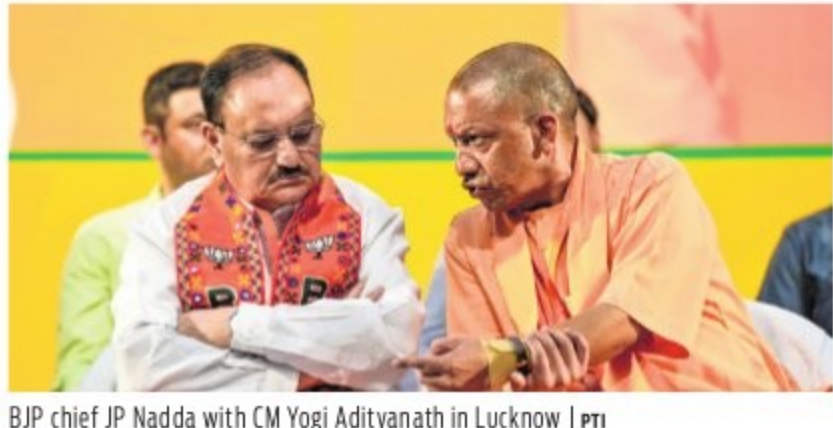
BJP blames 'false narrative' on quota, Constitution for UP loss

NAMITA BAIJPAI @ Lucknow

HUDDLED to chart a way forward after the debacle in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) vowed to move ahead with more strength, vigour, and unity, following the principle of continuity and living up to it in its true sense.

Passing a resolution comprising multiple points, including the reiteration of its commitment to the reservation of OBCs and Scheduled Castes in accordance with the Constitution of India, the BJP held its state executive committee meeting in Lucknow on Sunday. The meeting was attended by over 3000 leaders, including party national president JP Nadda, BJP national general secretary Vinod Tawde, ex-MP Smriti Irani, and a host of state leaders led by UP CM Yogi Adityanath. The BJP discussed the reasons for its debacle in UP headbroke.

In a spirited address at the State Executive Committee meeting, party national president JP Nadda said that the BJP was not just the party of the day, but also of the future, and the responsibility entrusted to it was a long-lasting commitment. He added that wherever the lotus bloomed, good



BJP chief JP Nadda with CM Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow | PTI

Yogi exhorts party to be active on social media

Expressing concern over the impact of caste divisions on the results of the Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh, CM Yogi Adityanath urged BJP leaders and workers to be highly active on social media. He emphasized the need to promptly counter all forms of false propaganda against the government and the party.

governance followed. "On the contrary, when other parties take charge, their rule is marked by the migration of businessmen and investment, security threats to women and the poor, and a series of scams," said the BJP chief.

"The future of the country is in our hands, and it is our responsibility to handle it with utmost care. Be aware of this responsibility," Nadda urged the attendees, reinforcing the long-term commitment and accountability that came with different roles and positions within the

party organization.

Meanwhile, the state executive also passed a resolution observing that the Lok Sabha election results were "not as per the expectations" of the party, reiterating its priorities by stating that the country came first for BJP workers, followed by the party, and personal life in the end.

"Our organization and our workers will constantly be on the move," the party said in the resolution, which was presented by BJP general secretary Anup Gupta during the state executive committee meeting.



GUWAHATI DIARY

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR

Our correspondent in Guwahati

prasantamazumdar@newindianexpress.com

AIUDF makeover after poll debacle

The minority-based party All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) will go for an overhaul of party organisation, its chief Maulana Badruddin Ajmal said. The reason it will reorganise its various committees, including the central committee, is to try and revive the party. The AIUDF had suffered a major setback in the Lok Sabha elections after having lost all three seats it contested. Ajmal was defeated by the biggest margin of votes by former Congress minister Rakibul Hussain. Ajmal said the workers of the party failed to win the trust of voters while MLAs did not work as much as they should have.



BJP dismisses exodus reports

Speculations are rife that the BJP in Assam will lose some of its old guards to the Congress in the coming days. The BJP, however, is least perturbed, calling the same the creation of the media. "There is no dissidence in the party and nobody is leaving," BJP Assam president Bhabesh Kalita said. CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said people leaving one party and joining another is common in politics. "Those who believe in BJP's ideology normally do not leave the party. If somebody has any plans to go to the Congress, I would request him to work for Assamese and Hindus," Sarma said.

Decade of DNA forensic service by Aaranyak's lab

The Wildlife Genetics Laboratory (WGL) at biodiversity conservation organisation Aaranyak, the only such facility in the Northeast, has been providing wildlife DNA forensic analysis services in Assam for the past ten years with success. The laboratory has provided its services in over a hundred cases, thereby offering assistance in wildlife crime investigation in the region. The lab has provided a range of DNA analysis services including the identification of wildlife species from morphologically indistinguishable material, forensic individual matching via DNA fingerprinting of rhinos, elephants and parentage testing of captive elephant calves.

POST-RETIREMENT

Judge who denied bail to comedian in MP joins BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

FORMER Madhya Pradesh High Court judge Justice Rohit Arya has joined the ruling BJP in the central Indian state, almost three months after his retirement.

Arya joined the BJP at the state BJP HQ in Bhopal on Saturday. State party headquarters in-charge Dr Raghendra Sharma welcomed the retired judge into the party. He later addressed a seminar on the three new criminal laws, which among others was also addressed by the state's deputy CM Rajendra Shukla.

Arya, as a judge of the Indore Bench of the MP HC, had hogged media spotlight in July 2020 for granting bail to a man accused of outraging a woman's modesty, on the condition that the accused got a Rakhi tied from the alleged victim woman (complainant) on Raksha Bandhan. In January 2021, he denied bail to comedian Munawar Faruqui and co-accused Nalin Yadav for hurting religious sentiments and violation of COVID-19 protocol in Indore.

IAS officer's mother in dock for waving pistol at farmers in Pune village

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

THE Pune police on Sunday lodged a complaint against Manorama Khedkar, the mother of controversial IAS officer Pooja Khedkar, for allegedly threatening the villagers by brandishing a pistol.

A video showing Manorama Khedkar threatening the local villagers with a pistol at Pune's Mulshi had gone viral on social media. It is alleged that she was trying to grab the farmers' land by intimidating them. Pooja Khedkar's father Dilip Khedkar was also reportedly involved in brazen land grabbing activities in Pune and Ahmednagar districts. The entire Khedkar family has amassed huge wealth and 105 acres of land through illegal means.

Pooja Khedkar came under the spotlight when she started making unreasonable demands, and snatching her colleague's office and its furniture. She is also charged with producing fake disability and

Cops seize her Audi

The police also seized Khedkar's Audi for not paying traffic violations challan of ₹28,000. The Pune municipal corporation pasted a notice at Khedkar bungalow directing demolition of the illegally constructed extended portion and planting trees there

OBC caste certificates to get into IAS. Interestingly, Ahmednagar District civil hospital, which issued the certificates, said that all her records have gone missing. A one-member committee has been formed to probe into all the allegations against her and submit report in two weeks.

On Sunday, the Pune police visited Khedkar bungalow, but Manorama Khedkar refused to open the door and didn't let them in. Police in a notice have asked Manorama why her pistol licence should not be cancelled. The police also seized Khedkar's Audi for not paying traffic violations challan of ₹28,000.

Shah inaugurates PM College of Excellence in MP's 55 districts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday virtually inaugurated Prime Minister's College of Excellence for all 55 districts in Madhya Pradesh and hailed Narendra Modi's farsightedness in bringing in the New Education Policy amid the aim of making India a developed country by 2047.

These colleges started by the state government in line with the NEP aim to make education employment-oriented. Addressing the main programme held at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government Arts and Commerce College in Indore, which has been developed as a PM College of Excellence, Shah said students must download the NEP document as it will teach them to "think out of the box". "NEP will play a seminal role in achieving PM Modi's target of making India a developed nation by 2047. For becoming a developed nation, the foundation of education needs to be strengthened, which is why PM Modi has shown farsightedness



Home Minister Amit Shah at the 'Indian Knowledge Tradition Cell' in Indore | PTI

by ushering in the NEP, which has been drafted for fulfilling the requirements of the next 25 years," Shah said.

"The NEP envisages bringing our students at par with international standards, enabling them to compete globally, while preserving our rich culture. Its focus is on quality and not quality with a focus on making students think out of the box," he said.

Shah praised MP for being the first state in the country to implement the NEP when current CM Mohan Yadav was the

minister of higher education in the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led government. After becoming CM, Yadav decided in the first cabinet meeting to PM College of Excellence in each district of the state. The 55 colleges are coming up at an estimated cost of ₹486 crore. Shah hailed the state for starting medical and engineering courses in Hindi for the benefit of students.

CM Yadav and state's higher education minister Inder Singh Parmar also addressed the gathering on the occasion.

In a first, newly wed women in C'garh plant fruit-bearing trees

Pledge to protect

Women engaged across the district right from gram panchayat level to the district headquarters. They pledged to protect and look after the plants they got



The vision is not just safeguarding our environment but it's also an investment on health

Deepak Agrawal, Gariyaband collector

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

IT was a day-long plantation drive, with a notable achievement in the parallel objective to invest in health and spread awareness on safeguarding the environment in Gariyaband district, 90 km from Raipur. The campaign appeared significant as only chosen women—newly married, expectant mothers and first time moms with a child—were the participants.

With the support of ground workforce like rural health workers Mitani, Angadwadi staff, over 17,000 such women were identified and each were given 5 fruit-bearing trees to plant in the safe premises of their dwelling.

They were enthusiastically engaged across the district right from gram panchayat level to the district headquarters. The women gladly signed a resolution pledging to protect and look after the plants they got at their places in the plantation drive, like the parents do for the better future of their children.

"The vision is not just to ignite the sense towards safeguarding our environment but also as a future investment on health by planting fruit-bearing trees. We initially sensitised the ground staff to ensure the spirit behind the campaign is adequately felt by the beneficiaries too. The aim is to realise and put in efforts for securing good health in future by addressing the malnourishment among children", Deepak Agrawal, Gariyaband collector, brainchild behind the drive, said.

GREEN DRIVE

Indore plants 12 lakh saplings in single day, creates record

Over 30K take part

More than 30,000 people, including over 40 NRIs, participated in the plantation drive on Revati Range hillock located on Indore-Ujjain road.



We are enhancing facilities. Modiji has asked us to reflect on the past and also work for the coming generation

Amit Shah, Home Minister

ANURAG SINGH @ Bhopal

COUNTRY's cleanest city Indore created a new world record on Sunday by planting 11 lakh saplings in a single day. More than 30,000 people, including over 40 NRIs, participated in the plantation drive on Revati Range hillock located on Indore-Ujjain road.

Joining the drive, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign launched by PM Narendra Modi was an apt reply to challenges of climate change.

The campaign was launched by Modi on June 5 to mark World Environment Day, under which 140 crore trees will be planted across the country, including 5.5 crore in MP, which Shah described as "lungs of Bharat".

Shah said, "Development is taking place and we are enhancing facilities. Modiji has asked us to reflect on the past and also work for the coming generation. The concern for the environment has become important not just for the country. Carbon dioxide and monoxide have reduced the level of ozone and created holes in its layer."

Shah said the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) started a programme to plant 5 crore saplings in the country by May 2024 but finished the work a year back. The CAPF has planted 5.21 crore saplings and will plant one crore more saplings this year. He urged the people to take care of the saplings being planted like sons.



4 dead
When a man opened fire on a birthday party in a village in France

GLOBAL WEATHER				TOLL SO FAR			
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thunderstorm • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny				40,154			
Beijing	31	19	SNY	Los Angeles	28	19	LC
Colombo	30	25	TDS	Melbourne	20	9	LR
Dhaka	33	26	TDS	Moscow	17	10	HR
Dubai	38	27	SNY	New York	28	19	SNY
Houston	31	23	TDS	Singapore	31	24	TDS
Istanbul	29	21	LC	Toronto	18	13	LC
London	22	17	LC	Washington	31	21	LC

World leaders shocked, appalled at assassination attempt on Trump

WASHINGTON

WORLD leaders and governments reacted with shock to the wounding of former US president Donald Trump in an assassination attempt at an election rally. Leaders globally spoke out against political violence and expressed their support for those affected by Saturday's shooting, which killed one bystander and left two other spectators critically wounded.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen

She was "deeply shocked" by the attack. "Political violence has no place in a democracy," she said.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz

Called the shooting "despicable" and said "such acts of violence threaten democracy."

French President Emmanuel Macron

The assassination attempt a "tragedy for our democracies." "France shares the shock and indignation of the American people," he said.

The Vatican

Voiced "its concern following yesterday's violent episode which injures people and democracy, provoking suffering and death."

Argentina's President Javier Milei

The "international left" in panic of losing at the polls, they resort to terrorism to impose their backward and authoritarian agenda.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

He and his wife Sara "were shocked by the apparent attack

WHO SAYS WHAT

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa



The attempt served as "a stark reminder of the dangers of political extremism." "Political violence is the antithesis of democracy," he wrote on social media platform X, wishing Trump a "speedy recovery." "We unequivocally denounce this political violence and earnestly hope that the citizens and leaders of America will have the fortitude and sagacity to reject violence and seek peaceful solutions."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov



"After numerous attempts to eliminate candidate Trump from the political arena using, first, all legal tools... it is obvious to all outside observers that his life is in danger," Peskov said. He added, however, that "we do not at all believe that the attempt was organised by the current power."

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos



said it was "with great relief" that he had learned that "Trump is fine and well after the attempt to assassinate him." "Together with all democracy-loving peoples around the world, we condemn all forms of political violence. The voice of the people must always remain supreme," Marcos said.

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

The investigation into the attack will be carried out in the most effective way and that the perpetrators and their instigators will be brought to justice as soon as possible in order not to cast a shadow on the US elections and global stability.



on President Trump." We pray for his safety and speedy recovery," Netanyahu said.

Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva

The shooting "must be strongly condemned by all defenders of democracy and political

dialogue."

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky

"Appalled to learn about the shooting" and wished Trump a "speedy recovery." "Such violence has no justification and no place anywhere in the world.

Never should violence prevail," he said.

Chilean President Gabriel Boric

Expressed his condemnation, calling violence "a threat to democracies" which "we must all reject."

Bolivia President Luis Arce

"Despite our deep ideological and political differences, violence, wherever it comes from, must always be rejected by everyone."

Mexico's President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador

Condemned the shooting, saying, "Violence is irrational and inhumane"

China's Xi Jinping

Expressed his "compassion and sympathy" for Trump, with a foreign ministry spokesman saying Beijing was "closely following" the incident.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida

We must stand firm against any form of violence that challenges democracy.

Taiwan's President Lai Ching-te

Offered his "sincere condolences" to the shooting victims. "Political violence of any form is never acceptable in our democracies," he said.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi

Described the shooting as a "treacherous incident." Sisi wished the US "election campaigns to continue in a peaceful and healthy atmosphere, free of any manifestations of terrorism, violence or hatred."

GAZA STRIP

A Hamas official said on Sunday the Palestinian group was withdrawing from Gaza truce talks, following a deadly Israeli strike that targeted militant commander Mohammed Deif more than nine months into the war.

Another Hamas official said that "Commander Mohammed Deif", the Islamist group's military chief, was "well and directly overseeing" operations despite the bombing raid on a southern Gaza displacement camp on Saturday, which Israel said was an attempt to kill him.

Another senior official from the Iran-backed Islamist group, whose October 7 attack on southern Israel sparked the war, said Hamas was pulling out of negotiations towards a ceasefire because of Israeli "massacres" and repeated stalling.

Ismail Haniyeh, Hamas's Qatar-based political chief, told international mediators of the "decision to halt negotiations due to the (Israeli) occupation's lack of seriousness, continued policy of procrastination and obstruction, and the ongoing massacres against unarmed civilians", the official said.

But Hamas was "ready to resume negotiations" when Israel's government "demonstrates seriousness in reaching a ceasefire agreement and a prisoner exchange deal", the official quoted Haniyeh as saying.



Mohammed Deif

ISRAEL-GAZA: DAY 282

TOLL SO FAR

40,154

Senior commander of Hamas killed

Israel said on Sunday that senior Hamas military commander Rafa Salama, "one of the masterminds" of the October 7 attack that sparked the Gaza war, has been killed in a strike. A military statement said the Israeli air force "struck and eliminated the commander of Hamas' Khan Yunis Brigade, Rafa Salama", in an attack Saturday in the southern Gaza Strip.

Syrian media says soldier killed, 3 injured in strike

DAMASCUS

A Syrian soldier was killed early on Sunday and three others wounded in Israeli strikes on several positions in and around Damascus, Syrian state media said.

The Israeli military, meanwhile, said it had targeted a Syrian military command centre as well as targets and infrastructure belonging to the Syrian army and air defence in response to two drones launched towards Israel from Syrian territory.

The statement was a rare acknowledgement by the Israeli military of action in Syria, where it has launched hundreds of strikes since the country's civil war erupted in 2011, mainly targeting army positions and Iran-backed fighters. "A soldier was killed and three others injured fol-



Charred cars lie in a parking lot in the aftermath of an Israeli strike in the neighbourhood of Kafr Sousa in Damascus on Sunday | EXPRESS

lowing an aerial aggression launched by the Israeli enemy after midnight" on Sunday, Syria's state news agency SANA reported.

The strike "was launched from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights" and targeted "several military positions in the southern region and a residential building in the Kafr Sousa district of Damascus", it added. SANA said that aerial defence systems had intercepted and downed a number of missiles. AFP

France's search for PM continues as hopeful quits

PARIS

HOPES of France's left-wing bloc finding a consensus candidate to lead the country's next government after an inconclusive snap election unravelled Sunday as the best-placed contender dropped out.

A broad alliance of Socialists, Communists, Greens and the hard-left France Unbowed (LFI) holds the largest number of seats in the National Assembly after last week's election runoff, but they are well short of a majority.

The result, says the leftist bloc, entitles it to pitch their candidate for prime minister.

Several days of wrangling within the loose coalition produced little until the emergence of 73-year-old Huguette Bello, as a possible consensus candidate. Bello quickly got the backing of LFI, communists and the Greens. But they could not bring on board the centre-left Socialists, who have continued to back their party boss Olivier Faure for the job.

In the face of Socialist resistance, Bello said Sunday that she would drop out. AFP



French Navy Rafale M fighter jets and a French Navy E2C Hawkeye perform a fly-over during the Bastille Day military parade on the Avenue Foch with the Arc de Triomphe in background, in Paris on Sunday. France celebrates military victories of the past at its annual Bastille Day parade | AFP

BASTILLE DAY

EXPRESS READ

Oli appointed Nepal's prime minister

Kathmandu: K P Sharma Oli, CPN-UML chairman and seen as a pro-China leader, was appointed Nepal's Prime Minister for a fourth term on Sunday to lead the new government that faces the daunting challenge of providing political stability in the nation.

Dubai crown prince named UAE def min

Dubai: Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum on Sunday announced his son, the emirate's crown prince, as defence minister of UAE. Sheikh Hamdan, 41, is the second son of Sheikh Mohammed and has held the title since 2008.

Covid restrictions brought back

Plateau de Beille: The Tour de France stepped up protective measures on Sunday, to "limit health risks" in the face of a resurgence of Covid-19, which has affected several riders in recent days. Masks must now be worn by everyone, including organisers, guests, journalists.

N Korean leader's sister slams anti-Kim leaflets

SEOUL

THE powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un slammed South Korean "scum" on Sunday for launching anti-regime propaganda leaflets across the border via balloon, warning they would pay "a very high price".

The Korean peninsula has seen tit-for-tat balloon campaigns in recent weeks, with Pyongyang floating trash-filled balloons southward in protest of ones carrying propaganda leaflets sent northward by South Korean activists.

Kim Yo Jong, a key regime spokesperson, said she was informed the latest batch of "dirty leaflets and things of the ROK scum" had been found in North Korean territory along the border, according to a state-



This recent undated picture taken and released from North Korea on Sunday shows Kim Jong Un (C) inspecting a construction project in Samjiyon City | AFP

ment carried in English by the official Korean Central News Agency. ROK is an abbreviation of South Korea's official name. North Korean military personnel were "now making an all-out search, throwing into fire and disposing of the found rubbishes", she said.

"Despite the repeated warnings of the DPRK, the ROK scum are not stopping this crude and dirty play," she added, using the initials of the North's official name.

"The ROK clans will be tired from suffering a bitter embarrassment and must be ready for

paying a very high price." Pyongyang has already sent more than a thousand balloons carrying trash southward in what it says is retaliation for balloons carrying propaganda criticising Kim Jong Un's rule.

In response, Seoul has fully suspended a tension-reducing military deal and restarted some propaganda broadcasts from loudspeakers along the border. Relations between the North and South are at one of their lowest points in years, with Pyongyang ramping up weapons testing as it draws ever closer to Russia.

Seoul and Washington have accused Pyongyang of supplying arms to Moscow for use in the war in Ukraine, which would violate rafts of sanctions on both countries. AFP

China, Russia conduct jt Pacific military patrol

BEIJING

CHINA and Russia conducted a joint naval patrol in the northern and western Pacific, Beijing's defence ministry said on Sunday, adding that the exercise was not "targeted" at any other nation.

The two countries have drawn closer in recent years and tout their friendship as having "no limits". Both share hostile relations with US-led Western defence alliance NATO. Beijing has further strengthened its diplomatic, economic and military ties with Moscow since the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

China, which has never condemned the invasion, maintains it is a neutral party to the conflict. But Western leaders have criticised it for giving political and economic support to Russia, including trade in

goods that have both civilian and military uses.

"According to the annual plan and the consensus between China and Russia, naval vessels of China and Russia recently carried out their fourth joint maritime patrol in the western and northern Pacific Ocean," the Chinese defence ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

"This operation is not targeted at any third party and has nothing to do with the current international and regional situation," it added.

No details were provided on the Pacific manoeuvres, including the ships' routes, their exact locations or the nature of the forces involved.

The drills were done in the waters and airspace around Zhanjiang, a city in southern Guangdong province. Russia sent two of its warships to take part in the drills. AFP



ASIA MATTERS

THAILAND

LUXURY RESORT CONSTRUCTION SUSPENDED

Authorities suspended a Chinese-owned luxury resort project on Koh Samui after finding out the property was not being built according to its permit and was taller than the law allowed, Bangkok Post reported. Pol Maj Gen Watcharin Poosit, commander of the Natural Resources and Environmental Crime Suppression Division, said on Sunday that officers of the Central Investigation Bureau and Koh Samui municipality raided the site of the "Anzhu Seamate" project in tambon Maret on Saturday. The officers found the project was owned by Chinese.

SINGAPORE

BABIES BORN IN 2023 FALL BY 5.8% A YEAR AGO

The number of babies born in 2023 fell to the lowest in at least the past 50 years, entrenching Singapore's great baby drought, The Straits Times reported. A total of 33,541 babies were born in 2023 - a 5.8% fall from the 35,605 babies born in 2022. The 2023 figure is 13.3% lower than the 38,672 babies born in 2021. The number of babies born in 2023 is contained in the Report on Registration of Births and Deaths 2023 published by the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) on July 11. The 2023 figure is the lowest since at least 1971, when 47,088 babies were born. PTI

POLICE BUST DRUG PROCESSING LAB

The police have busted a drug processing laboratory following the arrest of four men, and seized drugs worth RM178,500, The Star reported. Penang police chief Comm Datuk Hamzah Ahmad said police also confiscated a car and a motorcycle worth RM8,700 in total. He said the suspect was detained for drug trafficking activities.

Budget 2024: Addressing taxation challenges of individuals

From expanding Section 80C deductions to enhancing the extant tax-free long term capital gain ceiling on sale of shares, experts expect more benefits this time

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

AS the eagerly awaited Union Budget 2024 approaches, there are several key areas that taxpayers, including non-residents, are hoping to see addressed to enhance ease of compliance and promote a fair tax system. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is set to present the budget on July 23, and expectations are high that the government would make an increase in the basic exemption limit from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh in the new tax regime, alongside a reduction in tax rates. This adjustment aims to bolster taxpayers' disposable income.

More money in hands of taxpayers

A crucial aspect of the budget expectation is the overhaul of the capital gains tax structure. This could encompass modifications in tax rates and the method of computation, impacting investors and the stock market. According to one of the leading financial firms EY, the government should enhance the extant tax-free long term capital gain (LTCG) ceiling on

sale of equity shares/equity oriented mutual funds/units of a business trust from ₹1 lakh to ₹2 lakh. Similarly for immovable property, they should provide a tolerance limit of at least 10% of actual consideration for normative taxation purposes for transfer of unlisted shares.

Moreover, there is a strong call to augment the current limit for deduction towards interest on housing loans for self-occupied house property. Experts suggest raising the limit from ₹2 lakh to at least ₹3 lakh, benefiting homeowners and stimulating real estate investment. According to EY, the standard deduction threshold should be elevated from ₹50,000 to ₹1,00,000. This change would offer additional relief to salaried individuals, enhancing their take-home pay.

Easing TCS rules

One of the prominent issues that the budget could tackle is the adjustment of Tax Collected at Source (TCS) on remittances made under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) for stock option plans. In the union budget 2023, TCS for for-

BUDGET WISHLIST

Increase in the basic exemption limit from ₹3 LAKH to ₹5 lakh in the new tax regime

Elevate the standard deduction threshold from ₹50,000 to ₹1,00,000

Expand the definition of metro cities for tax purposes to include rapidly growing urban centers like Bengaluru

It is also necessary to expand Section 80C deductions and add a dedicated category for term insurance as the existing limit of ₹1,50,000 is insufficient —Tarun Mathur, CBO, Policybazaar.com

Overhaul of the capital gains tax structure — change in tax rates, method of computation

Foreign bank accounts to be permitted for tax refunds in case of PAN holders registered as NRIs

needed relief to affected taxpayers.

"MNC employees in India have the option to participate in employee stock option plans and employee stock purchase plans of overseas parent companies. Acquisition of such shares by the employee is being treated as a payment under LRS that is subject to levy of TCS. Such taxpayers are already paying taxes on income arising from the exercise of stock options as perquisite income, and taxes are deducted by the employer under Section 192 of the Act," said Divya Baweja, Partner, Deloitte India.

"Levy of both TDS and TCS impacts cash flow for employees, as they will be able to claim a refund of TCS only after filing their income tax returns. Suitable amendments should be made in Section 192 to allow for adjustment of any TCS collected under Section 206C on such remittances made for employee stock plans," Baweja added.

Boost to insurance sector

According to Tarun Mathur,

CBO, Policybazaar.com, the insurance industry is expecting pivotal reforms from Union Budget 2024 that will boost the sector's growth and support the economy. One of the key expectations is that pension products like annuity plans should be given the same tax benefits as NPS as the current taxation does not encourage investment in retirement planning.

"It is also necessary to expand Section 80C deductions and add a dedicated category for term insurance because the existing limit of ₹1,50,000 is insufficient for essential financial investments. The industry also advocates reduction of GST rates on health and term products from 18% to 5% which will make them more cost-effective and increase their overall appeal," Mathur said. There's also a need for an increase in the tax deduction limit for health insurance premiums, proposing a raise to ₹50,000 for individuals, their spouses, and dependent children, and to ₹1 lakh for

senior citizen parents. Another crucial area that could see reforms is the valuation rules for perquisites related to electric vehicles (EVs). With the government's push towards promoting EV adoption through various incentives, it is essential to update the valuation mechanism for EV benefits, including maintenance costs. By introducing criteria based on battery capacity and recharging expenses, the budget could incentivize the use of eco-friendly vehicles and contribute to a greener future.

Furthermore, there are calls to expand the definition of metro cities for tax purposes to include rapidly growing urban centers like Bengaluru. Currently, only four cities are recognised as metro cities under income tax provisions, impacting the House Rent Allowance (HRA) calculation for employees. Recognising Bengaluru's status and adjusting the HRA norms accordingly would reflect the evolving economic landscape of the country.

MONEY MATTERS

WHY HUNGER FOR KNOWLEDGE MATTERS



FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

CHARLIE Munger was no second fiddle. Although he served as the number two to legendary American investor Warren Buffett at their company Berkshire Hathaway, he was no less of a legend. His ideas and thoughts complemented Buffett and expanded the horizon of investing thinking.

In a book about his investment style, author Tren Griffin discusses five key aspects. These include continuous learning, simplicity, patience, courage and worldly wisdom. In the context of the record share prices and the attraction towards getting rich quickly, you may want to take a leaf out of Munger's investment philosophy.

There are no individuals in India who stand out like Buffett and Munger. The way they led their lives and made money not just for themselves but also for the shareholders and businesses they owned, there are very few parallels in the world. One can say that the organisation that comes close to the 'buy and hold' philosophy and has prospered is the government-owned Life Insurance Corporation of

India, the biggest insurance company. They have held on to their core holdings in Reliance Industries, ITC and other blue-chip companies for years. The compounding benefit and dividend payout have made LIC the most prominent equity assets owner than most mutual funds. By owning over 90% of LIC, the government effectively follows the strategy of patience. Insurance companies are not active fund managers. They are long-term investors. Patience plays a crucial role in riding through market cycles.

Continuous Learning

According to most studies studying how we think, our brains expand if we learn something new every day. Charlie Munger lived till 99, and Buffett is 94 and going strong. The secret to their long life is their hunger to learn new things. Munger made it a point to study more about worldly wisdom, philosophies, ethics, and many other things unrelated to the world of investment. He used the best knowledge from everywhere to inculcate virtues like simplicity, patience and courage. We all know about the frugal life the two most successful investors in the world led. They barely flashed their wealth. They kept their wants and needs in check so that the focus was always on adding more quality than quantity to their lives.

Investing is about nev-

er stopping to learn. You must not dive deep into it if you do not fancy such a thing. Buffett advised everybody to invest in passive index funds regularly. That applies to those not interested in finance or keen to learn.

If you are interested in creating wealth, you need to learn about yourself and the factors that influence financial markets. Discovering yourself would be the first learning that you could do. It is essential to understand the appetite you

have for risk in investing. Financial markets move up in cycles. When there is a downcycle, there is a good chance that you could panic and exit when prices are low. However, 'learning continuously' will tell you that the downward cycle in financial markets is a time to consolidate your investments and not exit. At the same time, when the market is booming like it is now with equity valuations stretched, there could be a period of a downward trend. Continuous learning will teach you to use patience as an investment strategy.

Investing in equity markets is all about patience and courage. To hang on to your fundamentally substantial investments, you need courage. To pick the right stocks at the right time, you need knowledge. To create wealth, you need the patience. To ride through the market cycles, you need worldly wisdom.

Another critical factor is relying on professionals to help you assess your ability to take risks. You may want to get help carefully planning a portfolio that aligns with your risk appetite and financial goals. If you are new to investing, you may want to get that right first. If you are already actively involved, you can have some meaningful conversations with your advisor on the outlook for markets. Your ability to learn could make your conversations with your advisor invaluable.



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

MONEY-WISE

ARE YOU LOSING MONEY IN DIRECT EQUITY INVESTING?



FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM

writes at

www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'



in the mind you should know why you are buying a share or creating a portfolio. When you write it down, you make some rules — and share it with your family.

● Not knowing whether an investment is for the short term or for the long term. This can also be seen as not knowing whether the transaction that they are doing is a Trading call or an Investment call!

● Not being able to think for themselves! Copying what others are doing is an amazing route to failure. Even legendary investors like late Rakesh Jhunjhunwala must have bought at least 100 shares -100 companies —however he made most of his money in just 10 shares. If you missed that 10, and you got in and out at the wrong time, you missed the bus, totally.

● Holding on to bad buys for a very long time — so the money stays in a bad share for too long and missing the opportunity to use that money for some better shares.

● Thinking that they have to earn profits from the SAME shares where they LOST money! This sounds ridiculous, but ask them and many will confirm!

● Doing Futures and Options with no clue why they are doing it.

● Listening to their greedy relationship managers who make them churn their portfolio. These people don't consider the impact of transaction cost or tax costs in doing too many transactions.

● Not understanding one's limitations. How can a civil engineer or a doctor or a mining engineer understand balance sheets unless they go through a training? Such people are much better off investing through a mutual fund instead of trying to dabble in direct equities. There are so many other things to know — behavioural finance, business cycles, promoter integrity, etc.

● Improper asset allocation — when you have too little money in equities, there is no impact on your total portfolio. However, if you have too much money in equity and don't have the stomach to sit tight during tough times, you will panic and lose money.

● Spending too much on Macros — and not doing enough research on Micros — seeing the fundamentals of the company in which money is to be invested.

Industry body: Continue 45-day MSME payment

PTI @ New Delhi

INDUSTRY body SME Chamber of India has urged Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to continue the 45-day MSME payment rule for corporates and other buyers.

According to Section 43B(h) of the Income Tax Act, introduced through the Finance Act 2023, if a larger company does not pay an MSME on time — within 45 days in case of written agreements — it cannot deduct that expense from its taxable income, leading to potentially higher taxes. The government in last year's Budget added a new clause under Section 43B of the Income Tax Act to address the challenge of delayed payments faced by MSMEs in the country. "We are pursuing not to change the 45-day MSME payment rules imposed by the Department under the pressure of corporates or multinational companies to save the life span of the MSME sector," SME Chamber said.

Xiaomi India profit drops 77% to ₹239 cr in FY23; revenue dips to ₹26,697 cr

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

CHINESE smart device manufacturer Xiaomi's profit in India plunged by 77% to ₹238.63 crore in FY23 compared to ₹1,057.7 crore in the previous fiscal.

According to a regulatory filing, the company's revenue from operations witnessed a decline of 32% to ₹26,697 crore in FY23 from about ₹39,100 crore in the year-ago period. The company earned ₹26,395 crore from the sale of products and ₹264 crore from the sale of services, which include advertisements and value-added services, among others, in FY23.

The smartphone market recently completed 10 years of operations in India, and has set a target of shipping 70 crore devices across categories in India. Muralikrishnan B,

President of Xiaomi India, in an event held in Bengaluru recently said, "We are committed to delivering cool tech products that resonate deeply with our users...we are excited to embark on the next decade of pushing boundaries, fostering creativity, and setting new benchmarks in the tech industry."

The company also unveiled the Redmi 13 5G, Wireless headphones, Power Banks and smart Robot vacuum cleaner last week. Since 2014, Xiaomi has shipped 35 crore Xiaomi devices in India.

Last year, our 5G devices saw tremendous success, and this year, we are excited to accelerate the adoption of 5G with the launch of the Redmi 13 5G smartphone. Anuj Sharma, Chief Marketing Officer, Xiaomi India, said.

Stagnant Asian Paints now attracts bulls

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

SINCE making its market debut more than three decades ago, Asian Paints has been a consistent wealth creator for investors. Barring the year 2022, the stock has given positive returns every calendar year in the last decade and on most occasions has surpassed the gains by benchmark indices - Sensex and Nifty. Recovering sharply from the covid lows of March-April 2020, the stock more than doubled investors in less than two years and strengthened its position as the country's largest paint company.

However, the blue-chip since then lost the attention of the Bulls. Despite the ongoing euphoria in the market, Asian Paints shares are trading well below their all-time high of ₹3,590 (10 Jan 2022). The stock has given a negative return of 13% in the past one year even as the NSE Nifty50 surged 25% during this period. At the current market price of ₹2,991 apiece, the scrip's return has been almost flat in three years.



While a degree of correction in stock prices is attributed to external headwinds such as sluggish demand and high commodity prices, the prime reason for the same is reported to be the entry of a new player (Birla Opus), which has ambitions to disrupt the ₹70,000 paint market.

The stance on the stock, however, now appears to be changing. On Wednesday and Thursday, it witnessed heavy buying amidst reports on price hikes. Asian Paints on Wednesday confirmed the development and said that it has taken a price increase of around 1% at portfolio level, with effect from July 22, 2024. Domestic brokerage

firm Nuvama Institutional Equities said that is a positive move for incumbents to fight Birla Opus by slightly increasing Advertising & Promotion spends and also to keep margins in a healthy range. It added that this also demonstrates that the pricing power of the paint industry remains intact even after the entry of Birla Opus.

Nuvama says that Q1FY25 is likely to be muted for the paint manufacturers and a recovery in coming quarters will be aided by the government's focus on 'Housing for All' and rising aspirations. It maintained 'BUY' ratings with a target price of ₹3,450 for Asian Paints share price. Analysts at Centrum said

that the price hike shows that Asian Paints is confident in its ability to produce double-digit volume and is not concerned about new competitors. Centrum believes the Mumbai-based company to remain a compelling case study for structural growth, capturing demand across segments and town class, despite the resurgence of competition from Birla Opus. It has a Buy call on the stock and a target price of ₹3,648.

Meanwhile, analysts at ICICI Securities said that volume growth for the paint industry in Q1FY25 is likely to be in mid-single digits. "There was disruption for about 15 days due to limited availability of manpower during elections. We believe volumes may recover around Diwali in Q3FY25. There have been no price cuts since Jan'24. Also, there was no material change in trade schemes," said the brokerage.

It added, "We believe there is slight inflation in Q1FY25 YoY but also believe it may get managed by inventory sourced at lower prices in Q4FY24."



World champion Femke Bol became the second woman to break 51 seconds in the 400m hurdles at La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, 12 days ahead of the Olympics. The 24-year-old Dutch athlete finished third in the last Olympics when world record holder Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone took gold. Bol ran 50.95 smashing her own European record of 51.45.

Quick REPLAY

1 set

6-2 Alcaraz; 40 minutes
A dialled in Spaniard had no problems in quelling Djokovic's threat, either in service or while receiving. After breaking to open proceedings, the Spaniard ran up a big 4-1 lead before the Serb started to win a few points. However, it was already too late.

2 set

6-2 Alcaraz; 34 minutes
The first set may have been over but it continued in spirit. Djokovic was getting no joy whatsoever. He continued to get no cheap points on his serve and Alcaraz kept at it as he sensed an opportunity to go for the kill. One majestic drop shot was a particular highlight.

3 set

7-6(4) Alcaraz; 73 minutes
Djokovic belatedly woke up and did the bare minimum; stay within handshaking distance of the 21-year-old. Even then, he was broken but finally broke him for the first time to drag the set into overtime. However, Alcaraz, who had already wasted three Championship points, produced an otherworldly drop-shot winner en route his fourth Major.

ALCARAZ'S SLAM WINS
French Open: 2024
Wimbledon: 2023, 2024
US Open: 2022

Honestly, it is a dream for me winning this trophy. I did an interview when I was 11 or 12 and I said my dream is to win Wimbledon. — Carlos Alcaraz after his win on Sunday

SPANISH RAJ IN ALL ENGLAND
Alcaraz overpowers Djokovic in straight sets to win second successive Wimbledon title

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Chennai

THE Wimbledon final is the one time of the year when royalty is out and about everywhere. In the stands. And on the grass. The 2024 men's final was no exception. Before the match, Kate Middleton, the Princess of Wales, was given a standing ovation by the capacity crowd on centre court. This was only her second public appearance since revealing her battle with cancer. In the two hours that followed, Carlos Alcaraz served a royal feast in a 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (4) beatdown of Novak Djokovic.

While the Serb has lost in straight sets before in a Major final — two times to be exact over the last few years to Rafael Nadal and Daniil Medvedev — this will be remembered for the manner of the win as well as some of the touch tennis Alcaraz displayed. The 37-year-old, who was aiming to become the first player to win 25 Slams across genders, is the modern master of staying long enough in any match. Even when he's struggling, he has,



more often than not, managed to get a foothold before finally blowing down the front door.

On a sun-kissed Sunday, the gulf in class showed. While one man was battling father time (to be fair, it's a miracle he made his way through the field one month after knee surgery), the 21-year-old was the epitome of quiet self belief. Faster. Higher. Stronger... Better.

For vast swathes of this 150-minute, straight-sets encounter, what was stunning was the way in which Alcaraz dealt with one of the greatest winners this sport had ever seen. He had seemingly killed jeopardy. This could well have been a first round match on the opening Monday of a Slam. The Spaniard was just that good. Aided and abetted by an ever-improving serve — he only lost nine points on his first serve (47 out of 56) — and touch play at the net (winning 16 out of 22), he stopped his opponent from developing any rhythm.

Djokovic let out a few primal screams in the third set to try and get his adrenaline going.

However, these screams resembled that of Baby Simba from the Lion King. The alpha, the Spaniard across the net, was well in control of the proceedings. The second-seeded Serb, who had been something of a giant at the net in the first six matches of the tournament (143 of 184 points won; 78%), appeared lost, like a middle-aged person who had taken the wrong turn on the way home. Against Alcaraz, it was down to below 50%.

In that sense, this had the vibes of the beginning of a new era with a new Spaniard at the very top of the food chain. To be fair to him, over the last six-seven weeks, he has given off lots of 'I'm him' sort of performances. Beating Jannik Sinner from two sets to one down to win the French Open semifinal. Beating

Carlos Alcaraz celebrates after beating Novak Djokovic (in background) in the final | AP

PATH TO TITLE

Rd 1: bt Mark Lajal (EST)	7-6 (3), 7-5, 6-2
Rd 2: bt Aleksander Vukic (AUS)	7-6 (5), 6-2, 6-2
Rd 3: bt Frances Tiafoe (USA)	5-7, 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (2), 6-2
Rd 4: bt Ugo Humbert (FRA)	6-3, 6-4, 1-6, 7-5
QF: bt Tommy Paul (USA)	5-7, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2
SF: bt Daniil Medvedev (RUS)	6-7 (1), 6-3, 6-4, 6-4
Final: bt Novak Djokovic (SRB)	6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (4)



It obviously was not the result I wanted but of course in the first couple of sets the level of tennis wasn't up to par from my side. But credit to Carlos for playing elite tennis. — Novak Djokovic on his performance

Alexander Zverev from two sets to one down to win the French Open final. Beating Frances Tiafoe from two sets to one down to win in the second round last week. Beating a red-lining Daniil Medvedev after losing the first set in the semifinal. Now, this. In terms of games won in a loss, this is one of Djokovic's biggest-ever losses in the final of a Major (in the 2020 French Open final against Nadal, Djokovic won seven games). Put it this way. The current World No 3 has beaten the current World No 1, World No 2, World No 4 and

World No 5 in a little over a month to win two Slams.

An understandably downcast Serb had only admiration for his opponent after the match. "I was inferior on the court," the 37-year-old said. "He was a better player. That's it. He played every single shot better than I did. I don't think I could have done much more."

As Centre Court rose in unison to applaud the repeat champion, it wasn't hard to think about whether this is the beginning of the Alcaraz Age. Tennis' new royalty.

Olympic torch relay seeks to win the hearts of sceptical Parisians

AGENCIES @ Paris

THE torch relay ahead of the Paris Olympics reached the French capital for the first time on Sunday, with organisers hoping to build enthusiasm for the Games among the city's sceptical residents.

The flame was first glimpsed during the traditional military parade held every year on the July 14 national holiday and then began its tour around the city from the Champs-Elysees. World Cup-winning footballing great Thierry Henry was given the honour of the first leg on the capital's most famous avenue, with the torch then heading for landmarks including the parliament and Notre-Dame cathedral.

"It's not something you turn down, on our national day, on the Champs-Elysees, the Olympics in Paris," Henry told reporters of his star turn. "Just extraordinary." The build up to the Paris Games has been marked by what chief organiser Tony Estanguet has called "Olympics-bashing", with many Parisians the sternest critics of the event and the disruption in the city.

In the wealthy districts, many families have already left for extended summer holidays, deliberately missing the July 26-August 11 extravaganza. "I'm following them putting up



French football legend Thierry Henry (C) holds the Olympic torch | AFP

the equipment, the stadiums, the impact that it will have on us, not really the torch," 22-year-old student Manon Skura said at the Champs-Elysees.

The Games have been designed to take place at locations in the heart of the City of Light, with temporary stadiums built at tourist hotspots such as the Eiffel Tower, Invalides and Place de la Concorde.

Using the capital's fabled streets and the river Seine as a backdrop will ensure "iconic" Olympics, organisers say, but it has also led to large parts of the centre being closed off and left traffic in gridlock. The latest change to the capital's streets has been the appearance of around 44,000 metal barriers around the river Seine, where a spectacular opening ceremony is being planned on July 26.



Minnu to lead in A-tour to Australia

ENS @ Chennai

MINNU Mani will lead the India A side in the multi-format series against Australia A starting from August 7, while Shweta Sehrawat is announced as her deputy. The series will begin at the Allan Border Field hosting the three T20s. The action then moves to Mackay for the three 50-over matches, with Gold Coast hosting the 4-day clash between the two sides starting from August 22. Minnu also captained the A

Minnu Mani (C), Shweta Sehrawat (VC), Priya Punia, Shubha Sathesh, Tejal Hasabnis, Kiran Navgire, Sajana Sajeevan, Uma Chetry (Wk), Shweta Giri (Wk), Raghavi Bisht, Saika Ishaque, Mannat Kashyap, Tanuja Kanwar, Priya Mishra, Meghna Singh, Sayali Satghare, Shabnam Shakeel, S. Yashasvi, Standby player: Saima Thakor

SQUAD

side in the series against England in December 2023. Priya Punia marked her comeback with the national side in the ODIs with the series against

South Africa has found a place in the squad. Uma Chetry, the wicketkeeper from Assam who made her debut in the T20Is recently, is also in the squad. Chetry and Sajana Sajeevan, one of the breakout stars of the 2024 Women's Premier League, are scheduled to play in the Asia Cup starting in Sri Lanka on July 19, before leaving for the A tour. Shabnam Shakeel, the 17-year-old pacer from Andhra has been announced as a part of the squad, however, her selection is subject to fitness.

ZIMBABWE TOUR

India finish another series win, but with fewer answers

GOMESH S @ Chennai

AND just like that, India have won another bilateral T20I series. This time, in Zimbabwe by a 4-1 margin, one week after winning the biggest trophy in the format. As India beat Zimbabwe by 42 runs in the final T20I on Sunday, captain Shubman Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal were the top two run-scorers with 170 and 142 runs, respectively. With the ball, Mukesh Kumar (8) and Washington Sundar (8) stole the show.

Keeping all this aside, if one has to look at what India have gained in terms of their future T20I team, there aren't that many answers. For starters, Gill, who has expressed his interest to open in both white-ball formats, despite finishing with the highest tally, struck at a strike rate of 125.92. This comes

in contrast to the philosophy that the Rohit Sharma-led side adopted in the title-winning T20 World Cup campaign. Not to mention the fact that he falls short in that aspect in comparison with his own teammates — Jaiswal (165.8), Abhishek Sharma (174.6), Ruturaj Gaikwad (158.3). Now, one could pin it down to Gill's approach in the format, but there are some questions about the playing XI India fielded through the series. The Men in Blue fielded at least three openers in all games, and four in as many as three T20Is. And all of the aforementioned openers batted in the top four. Going forward, the top two slots are something India will need answers for, and that is perhaps the thinking behind playing all of them. However, in slotting someone like Gaikwad at four and Abhishek at three, India



India won the five-match T20I series 4-1 against Zimbabwe on Sunday | AFP

had fewer middle-order options left, where there are already a few players in waiting.

Yes, Abhishek and Jaiswal have made the most of the chances and so has Gaikwad to an extent, but when the full strength team returns only two of the four openers will have a place. After all, India will still have Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Hardik Pandya

and Shivam Dube in the middle-order with Rinku Singh and Sanju Samson in waiting. Samson, in this series, had a chance to bat twice and he hit a fifty and an unbeaten 12 in the death overs. Rinku, meanwhile, had four innings with 60 runs to show at 176.47 SR. Perhaps, the only, and the most important, positive for India is the way Washington performed. Having

been in and out of the set up for three years, the off-spinner finished the series with the Player of the Series award. More than with the bat, his role was with the ball. It was a chance for him to make a case for the vacuum Ravindra Jadeja had left in the lower-order and the all-rounder made the most of it. That being said, there is a new captain in the format and a new coach for the team. And only time will tell where Hardik Pandya and Gautam Gambhir take the T20I side going forward. We will have a better idea only during the Sri Lanka tour. For now, India have yet another bilateral win that showcases their talent pool and dominance that might be of little consequence in the larger scheme of things. **Brief scores:** India 167/6 in 20 ovs (Samson 58; Blessing 2/19) **bt** Zimbabwe 125 for 18.3 ovs (Marumani 2/19; Myers 34; Mukesh 4/22; Dube 2/25).



Uruguay players celebrate their win over Canada in a penalty shootout | AP

Uruguay win Copa third-place playoff

AGENCIES @ Charlotte

LUIS Suarez rescued Uruguay with an injury-time equaliser before the South Americans defeated Canada 4-3 in a penalty shoot-out to win the Copa America's third place playoff match on Saturday. Uruguay looked to be heading to a shock defeat after the Canadians took a 2-1 lead in the 80th minute through a Jonathan David goal at Charlotte's Bank of America Stadium. But former Barcelona and Liverpool star Suarez, who came on as a second-half substitute, swept in a crisp finish from Jose Gimenez in the second minute of injury time to make it 2-2 and send the game to penalties.

In the shoot-out, Canada midfielder Ismael Kone saw his spot-kick saved by Uruguay goalkeeper Sergio Rochet before Alphonso Davies saw an attempted panenka hit the crossbar and bounce out to give Uruguay victory.

It marked a disappointing end to the tournament for Canada, who had been on course for a famous — and deserved — victory before Suarez's late leveler.

Uruguay had got off to a dream start with Tottenham midfielder Rodrigo Bentancur firing them into the lead after just eight minutes. Sebastian Caceres outjumped his marker to knock down for Bentancur, who turned and swiveled before rifling a shot into the roof of the net. The Uruguayans almost doubled their lead soon afterwards when a sweeping counter-attack left Canada's defence scrambling to cover, only for Maximiliano Araujo's shot to be blocked by Canada goalkeeper Dayne St. Clair. That miss proved costly as moments later Kone equalised for Canada with a superb improvised finish on 22 minutes. Jacob Shaffelburg's corner was met with a header by Moise Bombito, and Kone lobbed the advancing Rochet with a deft flick to make it 1-1.

Uruguay thought they had equalised almost immediately when Facundo Pellistri got the ball in the net in the 23rd minute. An offside in the build-up however saw the goal chalked off. Canada meanwhile twice spurned golden opportunities to score just before half-time, Tani Oluwaseyi heading wide from close range on 41 minutes before Jonathan Osorio saw an effort cleared off the line in the 43rd minute. A flurry of substitutions led to a disjointed second half, and the game seemed to be meandering to a draw until Kone surged forward from midfield 10 minutes from time and unleashed a ferocious shot that Rochet could only parry into the path of David, who tucked away the finish to make it 2-1.

Canada's late consolation goal came in the 89th minute as David scored from a free kick. The goal was a cruel twist of fate for Uruguay, who had been on course for a famous — and deserved — victory before Suarez's late leveler.

EXPRESS READ

Net gains for shuttlers Saneeth & Tasnim

PUNE: Karnataka's Saneeth DS and Gujarat's Tasnim Mir notched up comfortable wins over their respective opponents to secure the men's and women's singles titles in the Yonex-Sunrise VV Natu Memorial All India Senior Ranking badminton tournament. Saneeth ended the dream run of Tushar Suveer 21-15, 21-12 while Tasnim beat Devika 21-16, 21-13.

Aditi rises to T-22nd at Evian Championship

EVIAN LES BAINS (FRANCE): Indian golfer Aditi Ashok shot three birdies in the last four holes of the third round as she carded a 4-under 67 and jumped 22 places to tied-22 at the Amundi Evian Championship here. The Indian, who has played more than 30 Majors, vaulted to 5-under for three rounds as she continues her search for her maiden Top-10 finish in a Major.

BCCI to releases ₹1 cr for treatment of Gaekwad

MUMBAI: In a noble gesture, the BCCI decided to release ₹1 crore for the treatment of former India coach Anshuman Gaekwad, who is battling blood cancer at a medical facility in London. "Mr. Jay Shah has instructed the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to release Rs 1 crore with immediate effect to provide financial assistance to India's veteran cricketer Mr Anshuman Gaekwad, who is battling cancer," BCCI apex council said in a statement.



How is France looking to meet its promise of inducting 30,000 Indian students by 2030? What do Indian students have in store while studying in France? Consul General of France in Pondicherry & Chennai, Lisa Talbot Barre gives valuable insights on this, in conversation with **Karthikeya S**

FRANCE, HERE WE COME



THE growing bilateral relations between France and India have led to significant educational cooperation developments between the two countries. For instance, about 300 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed between Indian and French universities and private institutions for academic collaboration and research to date.

These developments have propelled France as a major destination for Indian students wanting to study and settle abroad – with about 8,000 to 10,000 students currently studying in the country, and 8,000 more students expected this year. To understand what studying in France would look like, *EdexLive* speaks to Lise Talbot Barre, the Consul General of France in Pondicherry & Chennai. Here are a few excerpts:

● Recently, President Emmanuel Macron announced that France is ready to welcome 30,000 Indian students by 2030. So, what does France have in store for Indian students? To achieve this, we offer Indian students some of the best high-

er education. Also, the cost of higher education in France is more reasonable than in the USA or the UK. A master's degree in France costs less than €4,000 a year. This is because the French government subsidises higher education for both French and foreign students.

France also has special programmes for Indian students, and more than 1,700 curricula taught completely in English.

● France introduced a scheme through which Indian students with Master's degrees and above can get short-stay Schengen visas. How would it benefit Indian students? The five-year short-stay Schengen visa will enable our Indian friends to retain their link with us. Now, this is not a study or work visa, but for Indian graduates from France to continue their relationship with us.

This is a multiple-entry visa; and the Schengen visa holders look for new projects, employment, and plan for further studies during this period.

● Why do you think Indian students prefer France as a study abroad destination? What Indian students are most interested in is that they can

Rising numbers

Besides opting for the US, Canada, Australia, and Germany, France is being considered as one of the best countries for further studies. Although there has been a dip in a number of international students before 2021, as per reports, enrollments have increased post-COVID



Lise Talbot Barre, Consul General of France in Pondicherry & Chennai

avail a two-year work visa in France, and get into their first job here before kickstarting their careers or moving back to India. Completing higher education in France, therefore, gives Indian students an advantage of working in France, or moving back to India to work in one of the 1,000-plus French companies in India.

● France introduced the Classes Internationales programme that offers

courses taught in English.

Can you tell us about it. So far, most of the Indian students who come to France do so to study completely in English. However, we need to offer students from India more possibilities to learn French if we want to meet our goal of 30,000 Indian students.

By doing this, we enable students from India to follow higher education in French, as the diversity of programmes and curricula offered in French is much higher than those taught in English.

It is a one-year programme open to students who completed their high school, or Class XII. They can apply directly and would get to spend a year in France enrolled in extensive French language courses. They can pursue courses in subjects relevant to the degree they want to pursue later.

After one year, these students will reach a B1 level of French proficiency and can enter the regular French language curricula as any French student.

● What other initiatives does France have to help Indian students navigate the language barrier and French language proficiency requirements? We have a set of tools to promote the French language in India. For instance, we have our network of language and

cultural centres in the form of Alliance Française in 24 Indian cities which offer resources and methods to learn French.

The French Institute of India and the French Consulates have partnered with Indian schools to promote French learning. Today, government schools in India are offering intensive French courses in partnership with us.

We are working with city governments and municipal corporations to strengthen these offerings. We have an agreement with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to introduce French language programmes in schools administered by it and are working with the Greater Chennai Municipal Corporation to implement a similar programme.

● In CY24, how many student visas is the French consulate expecting this year? While we still don't have the official numbers yet, we already observed a significant progression from January 2024 to May 2024. There has been a 30% increase in the demand for long-stay student visas in France.

More than half of the mobility of Indian students who go to study in France are from South India. Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Puducherry contribute 57% of the total figure.

Ranks that matter

If you are deciding upon a French university to study in, why not select from the very best that France has to offer? Here's a comprehensive list with ranks



1 University PSL
(Paris Sciences et Lettres)
City: Paris
Year: 2010

QS Ranking 2025: 24
Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024: **40**



2 Institut Polytechnique de Paris (IP Paris)
City: Palaiseau Cedex
Year of establishment: 2019

QS Ranking: 46
Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024: **71**



3 Sorbonne University
City: Paris
Year: 13th century (1150)

QS Ranking: 63
Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024: **75**



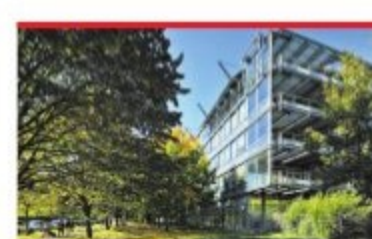
4 Université Paris-Saclay
City: Gif-sur-Yvette
Year: 2019 (History dates back to 1150)

QS Ranking: 73
Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024: **58**



5 École Normale Supérieure de Lyon
City: Lyon; Year: 1880

QS Ranking: 187
Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024: **251-300**



6 Ecole des Ponts ParisTech
City: Paris; Year: 1747

QS Ranking: 205
Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024: **401-500**



7 Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
City: Paris; Year: Early 1200s

QS Ranking: 283
Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024: **801-1000**



8 Université Paris Cité
City: Paris
Year: 2019

QS Ranking: 302
Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024: **152**



9 Université Grenoble Alpes
City: Grenoble; Year: 1339

QS Ranking: 334
Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024: **301-350**



10 Sciences Po
City: Paris
Year: 1872

QS Ranking: 350
Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024: **501-600**

Being touristy in France

1 First things first, climb the Eiffel Tower to get a wonderful bird's eye view of the city

2 For art lovers, your next stop should be the world's largest museum, the Louvre, home to thousands of artworks including the famous Mona Lisa

3 Want to feel charmed by French Gothic Architecture, just stop by the iconic Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Paris

4 To gain more wisdom about French history, explore Arc de Triomphe, Sainte-Chapelle, Basilique du Sacre-Coeur de Montmartre (Church) and Palace of Versailles

5 A must for Disney lovers is Disneyland Paris amusement and theme park

6 To soak up the Parisian atmosphere, head to Luxembourg Gardens, an oasis located in the heart of the city

7 France and food go hand-in-hand. France is known for serving gourmet food and remarkable loaves of bread and pastries, macarons, and crepes. Don't miss out on Baguette, brioche, croissant, fougasse, croque monsieur and bûche

8 Lavender lovers, Provence will be your favourite region in France with purple lavender fields, beautiful landscapes of olive farms, golden sunny mountains, and tiny villages tucked in the valley

9 France greatly impacts the fashion industry with luxury labels like Yves Saint Laurent, Dior, Chanel, Balmain, Louis Vuitton, Givenchy, and Pierre Cardin which rule the world and the notable Paris Fashion Week too

10 Movie buffs, Cannes Film Festival needs to be on your travel cards



FIRST STEP TO TAKE-OFF

When planning to study abroad, the first and foremost step is to be aware of applying for that country's visa and deciding on a suitable one. Here's how to take the first step to your dream of studying abroad

TYPES OF STUDENT VISAS IN FRANCE

- **Short-stay visa:** For a training course not exceeding three months
- **Temporary long-stay visa:** For a training course exceeding three months or six months
- **Long-stay visa equivalent to a residence permit:** For training or a course exceeding six months

The visa fee for Indian citizens is
€50 (INR 4,508.20)



1 Register on the "Etudes En France" platform and supply an identity document such as your passport and a valid email address

2 Complete and submit your application

3 Pay an application fee

4 Validate your application and complete an interview

5 Receive an answer from your chosen study institution

If you live in a country that is subject to the Studies in France or Etudes en France procedure, you will need to first apply to enroll in a higher education institution, wherein, upon concluding your application, your visa application will be automatically sent to the French consular authorities of your home country

Documents required for a student visa

- Passport photograph
- Valid passport
- Acceptance letter to your university of study
- Etudes en France (EEF) Admission Certificate
- EEF number (ZAZI-XXXX-XXXX)
- Proof of temporary accommodation in France
- Proof of sufficient funds for your time in France (the equivalent of €615 per month for the duration of your stay in France)
- Proof of residency in France such as a lease, electricity bill, title of property, etc. For a minimum of three months or a hotel reservation
- Proof of medical insurance with coverage valid in France
- Completed visa application form
- Receipt for paid visa application fee



DON'T FOLLOW THE HERD, ADVISE EXPERTS

WITH a twist of art, architecture, food, and fashion, France is one of the most renowned countries on earth. As a student who is considering the country for further studies, what could be the challenges one can expect? Here's what Harsha Tallapragada found out.

Subhakar Alapati, Founder Director of Global Tree, an overseas education and immigration consultant and Saurabh Arora, Founder & CEO of University Living, an overseas stu-

dent accommodation solution provider, begin by saying that France has been one of the emerging countries for students to study abroad.

Justifying their stance further, Subhakar Alapati said, "With changing political scenarios, whether in the US, or UK or due to visa policy restrictions in Australia and Canada, students are looking at new destinations like Singapore, Dubai, Germany, and France."

Saurabh Arora, on the other

hand, opines that Indians have turned into risk-takers and are becoming more adventurous as they look for specific courses and specific universities, unlike the traditional and comfortable practice of going to English-speaking destinations.

"A few colleges in France are known for specific skill sets and courses in France. For instance, luxury management or design," he adds. Further, as per

their understanding, both unanimously agree that the following are among the popular courses to pursue in France: Business and Luxury Brand Management and Fashion. Adding to the list, Arora said, "Culinary and gastronomy are favourable too."

What to avoid
"I would advise against following the crowd. Apply

your intellect. To make an informed choice, do your homework, consult with your counsellor, and speak with former students. Don't follow the generalisation that management degrees are the only ones that matter in France, even if you want to pursue fresh opportunities in wine tasting or cooking, do it. But do verify the legitimacy of your college. Just remember not to fall for degrees or certificates that lack validation," he said.



Subhakar Alapati, Founder Director, Global Tree



Saurabh Arora, Founder, CEO, University Living



DAY'S DIARY

Satellite launch

GSAT 12, an Indian communication satellite, was launched from Sriharikota Island in 2011 by a Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)

POSITION

Weighing 1.41 tonnes, it has 12 extended C-band transponders and was placed in a permanent operating position at 83 degrees E longitude, co-located with INSAT 2E and INSAT 4A



PURPOSE

GSAT 12 beamed telemedicine, remote education, weather forecast and other details to rural communities. It replaced capacity on the INSAT 3B, launched in 2000



GRAVEYARD ORBIT

ISRO disposed the communication satellite in a post mission disposal (PMD) operation in a year, starting March 2022

CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

POOJA DAS

HUMANS thrive on connection, but forming lasting bonds is challenging, especially today, when finding common ground can be incredibly difficult. But as is always true

with Bengalureans, they tend to find a way. For 21-year-old Bhoomika Venkatesh, this common ground was watching films and anime from the East with her peers. "I wanted to create a movie club for people who enjoy watching and discussing Asian films and build a community around it," says Venkatesh, who created Sakura Screenings three months ago.

Apart from Venkatesh, who has just started building a community, Vinayak Bhat, founder of Bangalore Film Forum, has been screening classics from all around the world for at least two years now. "I've been watching films seriously for more than ten years. I always enjoyed going to places like community theatres and art house cinemas. After the pandemic, many of those places didn't come back, so I thought I could start something similar. I started a small film club at my house with a few friends, and it grew from there," says Bhat.

Since its inception, the forum has conducted nearly 90 screenings, blending free and ticketed events and offering a space for film enthusiasts to engage in meaningful discussions. Despite challenges in securing venues at times, Bhat believes these spaces are important. "Most of us have 8-10 hour jobs, six days a week. We all need some connection to arts and culture, and a sense of community. When you come to a film screening, you're surrounded by people with similar interests, which makes it easy to socialise and feel part of a community. It's the same with performance arts, music, and



A film screening by the Bangalore Film Forum

SHARED SPACES, STORIES

From breakfast lectures to intimate dinners, film screenings to artistic gatherings, Bengaluru's budding community spaces are placing culture at the heart of urban life

other cultural activities." Ekta Singh, who started Ekta's Gatherings around 2018, agrees that there has been a considerable rise in such spaces in the last two years. "After the pandemic, my work saw a significant increase in attendance, and artists were more interested in participating. In 2022, I hosted about 75 gatherings, and in 2023, it rose to 130. My July calendar is already full, with August filling up," says Singh, who organises a range of musical and poetry events.

Sumedha Uppal, a member of the budding food community Dastarkhwan, notes the importance of genuine connections. "Despite the diversity in Bengaluru, many people feel lonely even though they are doing well in their jobs. Breaking bread together is much more than just sharing a meal; it's about shar-

ing a piece of your heart and sharing stories. Our events often turn into a 'mehfil' with people sharing stories, poetry, and songs." Akash Devaraju, who started Dastarkhwan as a passion project to reflect Bengaluru's culinary diversity—from budget biryani nights to iftar walks—says that these communities also offer a safe space to engage in conversations that are important for society.

Along with authentic conversations over food, Bengaluru also has spaces that curate in-

We have formed a close-knit community that loves to watch Asian films. It's been wonderful to meet people with the same interests

Bhoomika Venkatesh, founder, Sakura Screenings



Bengalureans at a Sunday morning talk organised by the Creative Mornings Bengaluru



Dastarkhwan is a budding food community exploring lesser-known cuisines

teresting breakfast lectures on socially relevant themes every month.

Founded in 2013, Creative Mornings Bengaluru is the first Indian chapter of the global Creative Mornings initiative based in New York. "The basic philosophy is that everyone is creative, and everyone is welcome," says Karishma Rao, chapter host, Creative Mornings Bengaluru. Held on Sunday mornings, these free sessions cover diverse themes—from architecture to dance—attracting a wide audience aged 18 to 40. With a community of over 6,000 members, Rao says their events aim to expose attendees to various fields. "The conversations encourage people to think beyond the usual. Our speakers are mostly local, giving us a way to learn more about the people who have shaped the city," she adds.



Aslam Gafoor (@aslamgafoor)

is a hospitality professional with experience in business development, sales and marketing with well-known hotels, and food and beverage companies. A few of his passions are travel, food and wine, and he enjoys sharing these experiences as a columnist.

THE QUIZ WILL BE
PUBLISHED EVERY
SATURDAY

Send answers to bengaluruexpress@gmail.com with the subject line 'Food quiz'. The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in CE on Monday. The first-prize winner will receive a voucher worth ₹1,000 from Theagram - JP Nagar**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Injera 2) Spanakopita
3) Moussaka

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Rakesh AC
2) Poonam Iyer
3) Anil Kumar Janardhan



Amy Herman (left) conducting a workshop

SEEING BEYOND

Amy Herman, a lawyer turned art historian, uses art to train diverse professionals—from intelligence agents to surgeons—in honing their observation, analysis, and communication skills

MONIKA MONALISA

ART can mean many things to different people—a medium to find peace or to see life from different perspectives. For New York-based Amy Herman, an art historian, art is also a tool to sharpen observation, analysis, and communication skills.

For 20 years, Herman, who also practised law, has been using art in this unique way. People often wonder what exactly she does. "I'm both a lawyer and an art historian. While I didn't enjoy practising law, I didn't want to waste my legal education. So, 20 years ago, I created a company that combines the practical aspects of law and art history. My company, The Art of Perception, focuses on training leaders across various professions—from intelligence agents to police officers, surgeons, nurses, and teachers—on how to use art to enhance their observa-

tion and perception skills," explains Herman, who was recently in the city.

She emphasises that she is not teaching art history. "I'm using art as a tool and providing a different lens through which they can view their work. In my sessions, I show them things they've never seen before, to sharpen their sense of critical inquiry. This means exploring how they ask questions, solve problems, and communicate effectively with their stakeholders," she adds.

When people usually speak about art, they often think of historical art pieces. "The way I use art is not about its substance or history. I'm not saying, 'This is Monet.' Instead, I get to the heart of the matter and ask, 'What do you see here?' The artist and the period become almost irrelevant," says Herman, an International Board Member for the Museum of Art and Photography.

Developing a skillset to look at the world from a new per-

spective is not new, but Herman feels it is crucial to bring awareness about it. "I'm not teaching anything new. I'm just bringing to the forefront what they already have but might not be fully aware of," she says, adding that she started her journey after seeing the success of a similar programme at Yale University. "After I stopped practising law, I went to work at an art museum in New York City. While I was there, I heard about a programme at Yale University where they took medical students and doctors out of their medical environment and brought them to an art museum. They taught them to observe and analyse works of art to enhance their observational skills for better patient care. This programme was very successful, and with Yale's permission, I started a similar programme in New York City with a local medical school," says Herman, adding that she also gives sessions to corporate professionals.

MONIKA MONALISA

SOME stories need a voice to be told and a medium to showcase. Many stories from rural India get lost in history before they even get a chance to be narrated. Govinda Sao's *Maatitel*, an eight-minute animated short film, tells a story that many might be aware of but rarely speak about.

The film, scheduled to be screened at the upcoming Seoul Indie-AniFest 2024, won the Lotte Reiniger Award at the Annecy International Animation Film Festival earlier this year. Sao is quite pleased with the international reception of his film. "They were shocked, and there was silence after watching the film. The feedback has been mostly positive," he shares, adding that it took him around 1.5 years to make the film.

Maatitel means kerosene—a vital liquid fuel used in rural domestic India—in Chhattisgarh. The story centres on a family of four—a husband, wife, and their two children. It's set against the backdrop of domestic violence in rural Chhattisgarh, offering a slice of the family's life. "We are just exploring a moment of their life. They could have the most mundane life, which can be easily missed, but it's a different world in itself. It's a chance for the audience to know what happens in their lives, which is otherwise unknown," explains Sao, who was recently in the city.

Writing a complete story might be easy, but picking a



Animating Rural Voices

single situation can be challenging, says Sao. "There wasn't any single source of inspiration for the film. It was a series of experiences and observations. I have grown up in that environment, the rural setting. It is somewhat inspired by the series of experiences

and situations that I came across from my childhood. You would see those moments of very intense arguments and fights between the husband and wife, which ultimately intensify to an unbearable extent,"

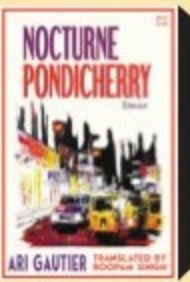
There wasn't any single source of inspiration...[The film] is somewhat inspired by the series of experiences and situations that I came across from my childhood—Govinda Sao, filmmaker



Stills from the film

BOOK

NOOK



Nocturne Pondicherry

By Ari Gautier

This is a collection of stories where the author peels the layers of human emotions until greed, anger, and lust are exposed. It focuses on the life situations of common people, street dwellers, and immigrants and places them in an abyss.



In That Mill, I Too Was Forged

By Narayan Surve

Translated by Jerry Pinto from Marathi, these poems capture the life and poetry of Surve, who was raised by mill workers and taught himself to read and write, going on to become a revolutionary poet.



Parade

By Rachel Cusk

The author defies traditional narrative structure, exploring themes of freedom, gender, domesticity, art, and suffering through loosely connected, essay-like episodes.



The Great Nicobar Betrayal

By Pankaj Sekhsaria

Sekhsaria points at the mega project of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands that seems to herald disaster for the islands. By compiling articles by experts that examine the proposed project from every angle, the book is a warning of the catastrophe that lurks on the horizon.



POETRY IN MOVEMENT

Dancer Prerna Shah charms the audience with her Kathak performance Nrithyollasa at Prabhath Kala Sambrama on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

QUICKFIX

GARLIC SHRIMP

INGREDIENTS

- **Shrimp:** 1 pound
- **Garlic:** 4 cloves
- **Oliveoil:** 2tbsp
- **Salt and pepper to taste**
- **Lemon:** 1
- **Chopped parsley**

METHOD

- Peel and devein the shrimp, and mince cloves of garlic.
- Heat two tablespoons of olive oil in a pan over medium heat.
- Add the minced garlic to the oil and sauté it for 30 seconds.
- Add the shrimp to the pan and season it with salt and pepper.
- Cook for three minutes per side until it's pink.
- Squeeze lemon juice, garnish it with chopped parsley, and serve hot.



Contributed by **Rohit Agarwal**, Delhi

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Calm Mornings

Enhance your practice, find inner peace, and strengthen mind-body connection in a tranquil setting at this rejuvenating yoga workshop.

- 🕒 **WHEN:** July 16, 6am
- 📍 **WHERE:** New York Dance Classes, BTM Second Stage
- 📄 **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com



Coffee Meet

Enjoy a delightful cup of coffee as you socialise, make new friends, and engage in enjoyable conversations in a friendly atmosphere.

- 🕒 **WHEN:** July 16, 6pm
- 📍 **WHERE:** Café Coffee Day, Indiranagar
- 📄 **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com



Remix Love

Experience a night with the perfect beats with **DJ Akbar Sami**, known for bringing the remix era to India. Enjoy his iconic Bollywood remixes and crowd favourites in an unforgettable performance.

- 🕒 **WHEN:** July 20, 8pm
- 📍 **WHERE:** Dobaara, Phoenix Mall of Asia, Bellary Road
- 📄 **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com



String Therapy

Join this guitar jamming workshop and jam with expert mentors. Discover the joy of playing guitar together, riffing on tunes, and learning new notes.

- 🕒 **WHEN:** July 17, 7pm
- 📍 **WHERE:** Bloom Activity Centre, Haralur Road
- 📄 **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

Musical Night

Get ready for an electrifying night featuring composer and guitarist **Sutej Singh** on his Summer 2024 India Tour. Experience his latest single *Land of Gold* and material from his upcoming EP during this exclusive 90-minute set.

- 🕒 **WHEN:** July 19, 8pm
- 📍 **WHERE:** Fandom at Gilly's Refined, Koramangala
- 📄 **DETAILS:** insider.in



Weekend Trek

For nature lovers and adventure seekers out there, get ready for a sunrise trek through the stunning scenery of Nandi Hills with experienced guides. 🕒 **WHEN:** July 20, 11.05pm

📍 **WHERE:** Pickup: Gopalan Mall, Rajarajeshwari Nagar

📄 **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com



Rhythm Diaries

Immerse yourself in Laya Ki Kahani - The Universal Language of Rhythm, where Kathak exponent **Aditi Bhagwat** explores traditional and contemporary rhythmic compositions. Experience how Laya integrates into our lives through movement and poetry.

- 🕒 **WHEN:** July 16, 7pm
- 📍 **WHERE:** Bangalore International Centre, Domlur
- 📄 **DETAILS:** bangaloreinternationalcentre.org



The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi.

My rabbit does not let me trim his nails. What is the proper way to do it so that it doesn't hurt him or me?

I am sure that's a question all rabbit pet parents would like to understand. All rabbit families should remember that restraining rabbits is very tricky and should only be exercised with extreme care while keeping the animal comfortable. Nail trimming is an activity wherein the animal feels very nervous and edgy and may try to wriggle out. Nail

ASK AN XPERT

trimming should be done by an experienced animal carer who is confident in making the animal feel comfortable and who understands the angle at which the nail should be shortened. Keeping such vital points in mind, I suggest nail trimming be undertaken under expert guidance and it should be refrained from if the pet parent is not comfortable.



EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

- ✉ @XpressBengaluru / @tnifeatures
- ✉ bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
- 📱 [@xpress_bengaluru](https://www.instagram.com/xpress_bengaluru)

FITBIT

EKA HASTA PARVA BHANGA

(STANDING LATERAL FLEX POSE)

This is a beginner-level pose with a side stretch and is a variation of Tadasana (Mountain Pose), the foundation for most standing poses, with the upper body in a side bend (lateral bend) and feet grounded. This asymmetrical pose is a creative way of lengthening the muscles of the side, back, and abdomen, making the lower body strong and engaged. It focuses on the psoas and abdominal muscles, and it can be a part of the Side Bending Yoga Sequence, which helps open the heart, and of the Heart Opening Yoga Sequence.

STEPS

- Align your body to do the Prasrita Tadasana Hands On Hips.
- Bring your legs a little closer, hip-width apart.
- Inhale, stretch the right side of your torso, and raise your right arm above your head.
- Bend your hip towards the left and place your left palm on the left leg. Exhale and stay here for about four to six breaths.
- Release the pose and place your hands on the hips.
- Repeat the pose on the other side. Inhale and stretch your left arm above your head, and bend towards your right, taking the hip sideways.
- Stay here for about six breaths.
- Repeat it two more times to open the shoulders and the neck.
- Finally, release and relax in Dirga Pranayama Tadasana (Three-Part Breath Mountain Pose).
- When you practise this pose, keep the chest open and head engaged, and avoid bending the upper body forward.

BENEFITS

- Stretches the lateral psoas muscles and the iliotibial band.
- Tone muscles of the posterior leg, like the plantaris, calf muscles, and Achilles tendon.
- Lengthens the spine and strengthens the muscles and joints.
- Opens the sides of the torso, elongates the obliques, and opens the back muscles.
- Enhances the body's flexibility and prepares it for intense side stretching poses.
- Intercostal muscles enhances the chest cavity.
- Helps with better breathing, thereby increasing lung capacity.
- Improves balance, focus, and concentration.
- Enhances the oxygen supply and energises the body.
- Enhances the diaphragm's flexibility and cardiac functioning.
- Stimulates the digestive organs, increasing the blood supply.
- Helps with spinal toning and stimulates the nerves connected.



LIMITATIONS

- Students who have injuries to their hip joint, ankle, or shoulders, have undergone spine, hip, knee, or ankle surgery, or are suffering from severe arthritis of the hip, knee joints, or ankles should avoid this pose.
- Senior citizens with balancing issues like vertigo, migraine, or HBP should avoid this pose.

By **N Elumalai**, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

ARTCORNER



IN A ROW

'Endless Journey' by Aditya Chadar is an acrylic on linen work that captures the tumultuous energy of crowded public spaces while aiming for a sense of equilibrium in his compositions



RUBINATIONS

Rubi Chakravarti

Writer, actor and funny girl

WHEN you meet a friend that you haven't met in ages, there is a flurry of warm hugs and 'where-have-you-beens' and other such peripheral conversations usually because we have accidentally bumped into each other! As we leave, we make (empty) promises of catching up. Rarely do we act on such promises, not because we don't want to, but because life and its shenanigans take over.

I used to suffer from an acute sense of guilt till I reflected upon my life, looking at the sea while on one of my idyllic holidays. We don't stay in touch with everyone because in every stage of our life, our needs change. I used to belong to a closed-knit 'moms' group when

our kids were younger and we did a lot of things together, especially while confronting an errant teacher or helping out with extra-curricular activities. As the kids grew and their interests varied, our 'all-mighty-moms-group' too, died a natural death. In fact, I was quite disturbed to hear that my son's classmate had recently died of cirrhosis of the liver! When? How? Why? These are all the questions I asked myself. I knew his mom was separated and I remember well how we had all gone on a picnic to a bird sanctuary together. My recollection of the young lad was that he was shy and soft-spoken. Even when my son broke the news to me, I didn't have the courage to call her up. We hadn't kept in touch...it was 25 years too late now.

When one views life with a certain gravitas, only then does the narrative of where we are ultimately headed to, emerge. I have decided to let things organically come into my space. I was trained to be ambitious, a



Sanyukta Kamath & Pratap Kamath, Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Morocco

Make The Time

non-quitter and the best. As I grow older, these things aren't as important to me. I refused two movies with big banners because I felt it would give me no artistic satisfaction though the remuneration would be great. Everyone asks me when I would be performing as a stand-up comedian again and

my answer is that now I'd rather see other artistes perform. I want to do things at my own pace now. I am currently on a holiday in Sri Lanka where all I want to do is lie on the beach and soak up the sun. No mad rushing around to tourist spots and buying junk. I am going to enjoy my children and my munchkin and capture pulchritudinous photographs with my eyes.

These are rare and splendid times not to be wasted on blather and piffle!

I have been busy finishing up work that I had procrastinated long enough on, but I couldn't miss the Moroccan Food Festival at The Oberoi! Two Moroccan chefs from Marrakech were visiting to treat us to some superlative food from the country. The table of diners comprised of well-travelled and discerning gourmards and after we finished marvelling at the prodigious entry of the all-mighty tagine with its offering of fish, meat and couscous, we settled down to the serious business of imbibing Madeira and exchanging adventure stories. Truly a Marrakech-type evening!

I made time for another glorious dinner at Far and East – a fabulous Pan-Asian restaurant with scintillating Japanese food – at The Four Seasons Hotel. Nothing disappointed...the food, the service, the ambience and the company were on-point.

I have noticed, that 'silent people have the loudest minds'.

(The writer's views are personal)



Atsushi Yonaha, Aloma Lobo & Vishal Sanadhy



Monsoon comes with a surge in incidences of illness, with cold and fever being common. Here are go-to comfort foods to lean on during sick days

CHICKEN LENTIL SOUP

BY SHEEBA LA FLEUR, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Ingredients

- Olive oil: 1 tbsp
- Bay leaves: 2
- Garlic cloves: 3 (minced)
- Onion: 1 (thinly sliced)
- Celery stalk: 1 (thinly sliced)
- Carrot: 1 (thinly sliced)
- Masoor dal: 4 tbsp
- Turmeric powder: 1 tsp
- Chicken thighs: 2
- Chicken legs: 2
- Salt: to taste
- Black pepper powder: 1 tsp
- Water: 4 cups
- Thyme: 2 tbsp
- Coriander leaves: 2 tbsp (chopped)



Method: Heat 1 tbsp of olive oil in a cooker. Add minced garlic and bay leaves and saute for 30 seconds. Add sliced onion, celery, and carrot, and saute for 2 minutes. Add the lentils, chicken thighs and legs, turmeric powder, thyme, and black pepper powder. Again saute for another 2 minutes, then add water and salt. Pressure cook until two whistles. Remove the chicken pieces to a plate, shred them, and discard the bones. Return the shredded chicken to the pot and remove the bay leaves. Simmer the soup for 5 minutes. Serve hot with bread toast, garnished with chopped coriander leaves.

BESAN SHEERA

INGREDIENTS:

- Ghee: 2 tbsp
- Jaggery powder: 2 tsp
- Almonds: 1 tbsp (chopped)
- White pepper powder: 1/2 tsp
- Dry ginger powder: 1/2 tsp
- Cardamom powder: 1/2 tsp
- Besan: 2 tbsp
- Water: 1 cup

Method: Melt ghee in a pan. Add besan and fry on a slow flame until golden brown while stirring continuously. Add finely chopped almonds and white pepper powder. Mix well. Add water, boil on a high flame, and stir continuously. Add the jaggery powder and let it cook for 5 minutes. Finally, add the dry ginger and cardamom powder. Mix well and serve hot.

PAAL KAPPA WITH ROASTED CORN

BY CHEF ARUN VIJAYAN

- Ingredients:**
- Tapioca: 500 gm
 - Shallots: 20 gm
 - Green chilli: 5 gm
 - Coconut oil: 80 ml
 - Coconut milk: 200 ml
 - Salt: To taste
 - Corn: 1
 - Mustard seeds: 2 gm
 - Whole red chilli: 3
 - Curry leaves: 1 sprig

Method: Crush green chillies and shallots together and keep them aside. Cut tapioca into cubes, boil until tender and mash well. Heat coconut oil in a pan and temper with mustard seeds. Add red chilli and curry leaves. Add the mashed tapioca, crushed shallots and green chilli. Season with salt and add the coconut milk. Cook for a few minutes in slow heat. Turn off the flame and enjoy the dish.



RONNIE KURIAKOSE

WHO doesn't love the monsoon? Coming after months of scorching summer, this spell of rain is a perfect time to sink into your favourite couch and nurse a cup of warm tea.

Some do it out of a fascination for the weather and the lush greenery outside. Others, however, retreat to it as a means to get 'over the weather'. You see, monsoon is also a season of sickness, with colds, coughs and digestive issues becoming quite common.

"The increased humidity and moisture can promote the growth of bacteria and viruses, making us prone to infections and seasonal ailments," warns Dr Nydin Poulin, the chief dietitian at Medical Trust Hospital, Kochi. That's why it's essential to be mindful of our diet during this time.

"Eating fresh, hot, home-cooked meals helps prevent infections. Avoiding street food and easily contaminated foods like leafy vegetables and seafood further protect our health," Dr Poulin adds.

Dr Manju P George, the chief dietitian of VPS Lakeshore Hospital in Kochi, while seconding this, also suggests including herbs and spices, nuts and sprouts and fish/chicken dishes prepared in less oil in the diet to maintain fitness during the rains. "Drinks or dishes with ginger, garlic, turmeric, pepper, lemon, tulsi, mint, cinnamon, cumin and coriander are instrumental in beating illnesses. It can be incorporated in the form of different types of flavoured tea (without milk), as soups, and as salad ingredients," she says.

We can all agree that hot soups are refreshing during the monsoon. We've all had a bowl or two when we suffered nose congestion or cough. Dr George says warm turmeric milk is also an alternative to combat the same. Lekshmy Manish, a celebrity dietitian hailing from Thiruvananthapuram, seconds this. "Include spices like turmeric and ginger in your meals for their anti-inflammatory properties. Drink herbal teas and soups to stay hydrated," she says, adding, "It is best to reduce street food and stick to home-cooked meals."

Another common ailment during the monsoon is digestive issues. Deep-fried foods are the main villains here. Dr Surej Subhash, a senior medical consultant at Ayurbethaniya Hospital, Thrissur, says a robust immune system depends on a healthy gut flora, which is maintained by probiotics. "It helps prevent infections during the monsoon season," he says. As a remedy, he suggests buttermilk for people with sensitive stomachs. "It is easier to digest than ordinary milk. Also, add a pinch of turmeric or a teaspoon of crushed cumin seeds or ginger," he adds. Dr George also recommends curds, boiled bananas, sprouts, plain nuts and berries as good prebiotic foods.

Whatever you do, drink lots of water; Dr Poulin urges. "Whatever the form, staying hydrated is key," she adds. The others echo this. Now, having learned all this, one thing is very clear; during these damp, chilly days, the comforting warmth of traditional home-cooked foods becomes very important. Not only do they soothe the body, but also uplift the spirit.

Hence, here are some comfort foods from across India that can bring solace, no matter where you are from. So, the next time you're feeling under the weather, reach out to these foods and let the magic of culinary traditions work their healing charm.

KOZHI KARUVEPPILAI SOUP

Ingredients

- Chicken with bone: 500 gm
- Curry leaves with stem: 50 gm
- Ginger: 10 gm
- Garlic: 10 gm
- Black peppercorn: 10 gm
- Salt: To taste
- Turmeric powder: A pinch
- Whole shallots: 20gm
- Green chilli: 2
- Whole coriander seeds: 10gm
- Water: 3 liter
- Coriander sprigs: For garnish



Method: Boil all ingredients in a medium to slow heat until the 3-liter water reduces to 1 litre. Drain and serve in a soup bowl after adding boiled chicken pieces and garnishing with coriander sprigs.



JITHA KARTHIKEYAN

jithakarthekeyan2@gmail.com

(The writer is an artist and curator, passionate about making art accessible to the larger public)

THE English language has firmly assigned character traits to most animal species. The quiet tortoise's lack of speed has been often advertised as the perfect way to win life's marathons by the addition of adjective 'steady', the poor rat that has never refused to squeak has been silenced with the simile, 'as quiet as a mouse', the peacock's proud gait has made it the epitome of pride and then of course, there are the loud proclamations of the valour of spineless individuals in power of any sort, by comparing them with the majestic lion.

Art however, has never associated any creature – beast or pet, with singular meanings. A canine in art, for instance, can symbolise anything from loyalty to seduction. Representations may be contradictory from canvas to canvas, but animal symbolism in art certainly has a rich history.

The cute bunny rabbit has played several endearing characters in a multitude of books for children. To grown adults, its ability to mate and multiply abundantly has been used widely in discussions of the

Cryptic creatures in art



rapidly escalating population. Art considers this fecundity as a symbol of the powerful emotion of lust. A number of Renaissance paintings which are erotic in nature feature pairs of rabbits lurking in the corners, eyes twinkling in a subtle attempt to convey its tantalising message. If you happen to see rabbits at the feet of Mother Mary, that is another story altogether; which has to do with a myth that these adorable animals can reproduce without a partner, thus signifying virgin birth in this case.

Dogs, for the most part, have been known to be man's best friend and lauded for their faithfulness and blind loyalty. Artists however, have also donned them with coats of avarice, rage and other negative attributes in numerous paintings. Italian Renaissance painter Titian, paired a dog with Judas in his masterpiece The Last Supper; thereby associating the canine with treachery. In later years, these hounds were toned

down to represent female seduction and devotedness.

The monkey that bears the seal of mischief in literature, was regrettably seen as an incarnation of the devil by artists of the early Middle Ages. Thankfully, these negative overtones were revised in the later periods and artists used these primates to denote humans and all their earthly desires. Monkeys were a constant feature in the self portraits of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. Although Mexican folklore connected them with lust, Kahlo considered them to be tenderly child-like and personified them in her paintings as the children she could not have, due to health complications.

Similarly, the chatterbox parrot was considered an emblem of sacred motherhood or Immaculate Conception in art, while the proud peacock was honoured as a mark of immortality. In ancient times, the multi-hued bird was believed to possess flesh that never decayed and hence, the peacock could be found perched in many paintings of the time to signify eternal life. The presence of animals and birds in art, transcends time and culture. Understanding their varied representations throughout history helps us comprehend the beliefs that have shaped the human race. Lusty hares and back-stabbing mongrels continue to offer glimpses into human culture.

(The writer's views are personal)

THE NEW **INDIAN EXPRESS** **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, C S BHANUPRAKASH resident of MAP- 317/31, Officers Enclave, IAF, Head Quarters Training Command, JC Nagar Post, Hebbal, Bangalore - 560006, Karnataka, have changed my daughter's Name from **AHANA** to **AHANA PRAKASH** vide Affidavit dated 13-07-2024 before Notary **JALANDHARA** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, BHARATHY JAVARAIAH aged about 49 Years W/o Shivalingaiah Thimmasandra Ningegowda R/at No.20, Sriakashmivenkateshwara Nilaya, 7th Cross, Harsha Layout, Bengaluru- 560060, have changed my name to **BHARATHI JAVARAIAH** vide affidavit dated: 13/7/2024 Before Notary **Mohammed Hussain. K** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, KUSUMA VIJAYA KUMAR W/o, Vijaya kumar B P R/at Flat No.041 A1 Block Sumadhura Mathrusree Residency Thindlu Main Road Vidyanarayana Bengaluru- 560097 have changed my name to **KUSUMA SHIVAKLAR MURUDAPPA** vide affidavit dated: 13/7/2024 Before Notary **K.V.Mani** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MISBA HANIF BEGA R/at No. B-205, 3rd Floor, 93A to 93B, 1st Main Road, Azisat Industrial Town, Bengaluru- 560039, have changed my name to **MISBA** vide affidavit dated: 13/7/2024 Before Notary **N.Nagappa** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, KEERTHI KATHIRESAN K. D/o Late. Kathiresan, Aged about 37 years, residing at No. 190, 2nd Cross, Gangamma Layout, Guddadahalli, R T Nagar Post, Bangalore - 560032, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **KEERTHI KATHIRESAN K.** henceforth I shall be known and called as **KEERTHI KATHIRESAN K** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 13/07/2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **LEELA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, "Pranathi", Wife of Shreyas N Iyer, aged about 26 years, currently residing at Flat no B 406, Value Plus Apartment 73/1, Narayana Nagar, 1st Block, Off Kanakapura Road, Doddakallasandra, Bengaluru 560062, have changed my name from **Pranathi** to **Pranathi Shreyas Iyer**, vide affidavit dated 13/7/2024 sworn to before R.S.Vijay advocate and notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, VIJAY VASANT ILIGER resident of NO 92 1B 1ST FLOOR BASAVA SADANA 10TH CROSS NGEF LAYOUT NAGARABHAVI 2ND STAGE BENGALURU 5600072, have changed my name from **VIJAY ILIGER** to **VIJAY VASANT ILIGER**, vide affidavit dated 10/7/2024 sworn to before Shreshail B Gobani advocate and notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, DILIPAKUMAR MAHARUDRA HUDDAR, Age: 44 years, R/o No.216, 3A Block, Anjanapura BDA Layout, Bangalore-560108, state that my Son's name is wrongly entered in some documents as **SUMIT HUDDAR** (old name), where as my son's correct name is **SUMIT DILIPAKUMAR HUDDAR** (New name) as per Aadhar card No. 670245237691 which shall be carried for all documentation, vide affidavit before notary G R Rajanna dated 12-07-2024

CHANGE OF NAME
I, DILIPAKUMAR MAHARUDRA HUDDAR, Age: 44 years, R/o No.216, 3A Block, Anjanapura BDA Layout, Bangalore-560108, state that my daughter's name is wrongly entered in some documents as **SAHANA HUDDAR** (old name), where as my daughter's correct name is **SAHANA DILIPAKUMAR HUDDAR** (New name) as per Aadhar card No. 463819206629 which shall be carried for all documentation, vide affidavit before notary G R Rajanna dated 12-07-2024

CHANGE OF NAME
I, DILIPAKUMAR MAHARUDRA HUDDAR, Age: 44 years, R/o No.216, 3A Block, Anjanapura BDA Layout, Bangalore-560108, state that my name is wrongly entered in some documents as **DILIPAKUMAR HUDDAR** (old name), where as my correct name is **DILIPAKUMAR MAHARUDRA HUDDAR** (New name) as per Aadhar card No. 330789503659 which shall be carried for all documentation, vide affidavit before notary G R Rajanna dated 12-07-2024

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SHIVANANDA .K. S/o. Krishnappa .M, Aged about 45 years, Residing at No. 311, 7th Main Road, Vajramuni Nagar, J.H.C.S. Layout, Thurahalli, Bengaluru - 560 061, do hereby declare that I have changed my daughter's name from **ANIKIA KIRANA HUNGE** to **ANIKIA TEJA GOWDA** vide affidavit dated 12.07.2024 sworn to before K. Ramegowda, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, D.M. AMMAIAH, W/o Munivenkate Gowda, No.1159, 26th A Main, Ragi Gudda Temple, 9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560069, hereby declare that **D.M. AMMAIAH, AMMAIAHAMMA T.M. AMMAIAHAMMA & D.M. AMMAIAHAMMA** belongs to me only and they are not different or distinct and I use my name as **D.M. AMMAIAH** in all day to day transactions, vide affidavit dated 13.07.2024 before Notary Public before Notary Public **MOHAMMED HUSSAIN K.** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Mrs. AGATHA MONIZ, W/o. late Noel Moniz, Aged about 65 years, R/at No.26, Ferns Residency, K.Narayanapura, Kothanur Post, Bangalore -560077 hereby declare that my names **AGATHA MONIZ** and **AGATHA JUDITH RUBY MONIZ** belongs to one and the same person, vide affidavit dated 12-07-2024 sworn to before notary D. Rajanna, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, DIYA THUMULURU SATHISH, resident of No.3013, Windmills of Your Mind, EPIP Zone, Whitefield, Hoodi, Bangalore-560048, have changed my name to **DIYA SATHISH** Vide affidavit dated: 12.07.2024 sworn to before Advocate and Notary C. Santhosh, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SYED ALLA BAKASH, S/o. Syed Babajan, residing at No: 278, 2nd cross, Masjid Main Road, Islampur HAL, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560017 have changed my name to **SYED ALLAH BAKASH** Vide affidavit dated: 01.07.2024 sworn to before Advocate and Notary B.V. Nagabhushana, Bangalore



says rapper and music director Chandan Shetty, and discusses his acting debut in *Vidyarthi Vidyarthiniyare*, among other things

'ACTORS' CAREERS AND THEIR PAY PACKAGES INSPIRED ME TO TRANSITION TO THE SILVER SCREEN'

A SHARADHAA

KANNADA rapper Chandan Shetty, known for hit tracks like '3 Peg,' 'Tequila,' 'Fire,' and 'Party Freak,' is stepping into a new phase with his acting debut in *Vidyarthi Vidyarthiniyare*, directed by Arun Amuktha. Ahead of the film's release on July 19, Chandan Shetty, who is exploring this new arena, reflects upon his music career, "Though I have been associated with various music directors as a background singer, I realised I needed to put myself out there to gain recognition. So, I leaped to be the face behind the music, which led to 'Halagode'." It was a time of challenges, risks, and equal enthusiasm.

Chandan, who started as a *Bigg Boss* contestant, is now a popular music director turned actor. He reveals his journey through various art forms helped him build a livelihood and earn income. "Coming from a middle-class family,



A still from the film.

fame wasn't my primary goal; I was doing this to earn a living. Thankfully, I had strong support from my parents; their belief in my talent was invaluable. My father, a staunch believer in astrology, was confident I would succeed, but it took a few years. When I composed 'Halagode', I was unsure if I would be able to continue staying in Bengaluru. I was ready to leave the city, but luckily, it clicked, and from there, there was no looking back," he says, attributing his journey to fate and numerous miracles.

Chandan Shetty says that *Bigg Boss* gave him equal parts fame and criticism. "Success attracts detractors in any field. Criticism is part of being a public figure, and I've learned to handle it maturely. These experiences strengthened and motivated me to pursue acting," he explains. His decision to foray into acting was pragmatic, believing that without a 'Godfather,' the only other way to keep afloat in the film industry is to generate income, and acting proves to be a profitable endeavour. "Today's actors are among

the highest-paid in the Kannada industry. As a music director, I felt I wasn't adequately compensated. Studying actors' careers and their pay packages inspired me to transition to the silver screen," says Chandan, adding, "While *Vidyarthi Vidyarthiniyare* marks my debut, I've already completed two other projects: Suraj Shastri's *Elra Kaaleliyatte Kaala* and Kiran's *Suthradaari*."

A self-taught musician, Chandan Shetty credits YouTube for his learning. "As an actor, I've learned a lot from my actor friends, drawing inspiration from Puneeth Rajkumar and Aamir Khan on handling celebrity life. Having shot for three projects, I have now realised that stepping out of my comfort zone is not easy," he shares, acknowledging mixed emotions as he prepares to see himself on screen. "As a rapper, I connected with specific audiences through music. Now, as I transition to the silver screen I wonder how audiences will embrace me."

In *Vidyarthi Vidyarthiniyare*, Chandan Shetty portrays

three distinct characters, each presenting a unique challenge. "Seeing myself in the mirror in each new avatar brought back memories of my rapper days. Embracing these diverse roles has been a fulfilling challenge," he shares, hoping audiences will appreciate.

With his focus shifting to acting, Chandan Shetty has recorded only a couple of songs in the recent past. "I want to avoid confusing my audience. As a rapper, financial constraints were significant. Thankfully, on the acting front, producers have shown faith in me, and I aim to maintain that trust," he acknowledges, expressing his gratitude to producers Subramanya Kukke and AC Shivalingegowda for releasing the film during challenging times. *Vidyarthi Vidyarthiniyare*, a college-themed drama, revolves around high-achieving students aiming to inspire youths who take parental support for granted. "My character aims to change their lives," Chandan Shetty explains.

Speaking on the recent news of his divorce from Niveditha Gowda, he admits to being open to an on-screen pairing with her if it serves the film. "I've already shot for a film where she plays the lead, and I play her boyfriend. We have a few days of shooting left and are waiting for its completion," he concludes warmly.

Rishvik Shetty takes on multiple roles for *Billarrii*

CE FEATURES

PL Bharamanna's upcoming directorial, *Billarrii*, has Rishvik Shetty taking on multiple roles as the lead actor, writer, and producer under the AVK Production banner. The film recently went on floors following a simple muhurat ceremony. The makers also unveiled the first look poster of *Billarrii*.

With regards to the title, 'Bhil' comes from the word 'bilu,' meaning bow. The Bhil community is well-known for their exceptional archery skills and extensive knowledge of their local area. According to director Bharamanna, the film's title is based on the main character's name and tells the story of



a king from the Bhil tribe. The film will be shot in Bengaluru, Arasikere, Gajendragad, Hassan, Annigeri, and other exotic locations.

Rishvik Shetty plays dual roles as a king and an officer,



Team Billarrii

with Chaitra Loknath starring as the female lead. The cast also includes notable actors such as Nagendra Urs, Prakash Tumminadu, MK Math, Kempegowda, Balaram Panchal, Chandrababha, and

Naveen Bondel in pivotal roles. The film will feature four songs composed by Subhash, with lyrics by Pramod Maravanthe for one track. Agastya U Gowda is handling the cinematography.

revelations. The intertwining of personal secrets with public personas is explored well in Swattu, making the episode both suspenseful and stimulating. Poorvachara (Tradition), directed by Sanal Aman and Swaroop Elamon, featuring Prakash Raj and Ujjwal UV as father and son, highlights the macabre tradition of a man mistakenly believed dead who must walk himself to the pyre, torn between familial duty and the will to live. This episode, among others in the anthology, is philosophically rich for its discussions about death, duty, and tradition, anchored by an effective Prakash Raj.

Astiva (Identity), directed by Swaroop Elamon and Sanal Aman, takes place close to the Kerala border and is mostly in Malayalam. It is about an old writer who confronts untold stories and buried memories when a visitor unearths his past. This introspective and haunting narrative keeps the viewer engaged. In a pivotal scene from this episode, the divine spirits such as Panjuri, Koragajja, and Guliga are woven into the story, which reminds us of Kantara.

Overall, *Ekam* reveals hidden, earthy stories of the coastal belt, touching on universally resonant emotions and experiences. Each episode lingers in the mind, blending diverse narratives into a cohesive exploration of life, identity, depth, and perspective on the human experience. While the series brings in its diverse narratives, rich cultural backdrop, and compelling performances by every artist, including noted actors like Prakash Raj and Raj B Shetty and fresh talents, every actor demonstrates a deep understanding of their respective characters. Its leisurely pacing, with 25-minute-long episodes, mirrors the slowness of coastal life and yet it still offers in-depth storytelling. The background score and atmospheric sounds of the Karavali region make for an immersive experience. This anthology shows that many more stories from the coastal region are waiting to be told, each with its unique charm and depth

A serene anthology paints vivid emotions, unveils the unique charm of Karavali

A SHARADHAA

SANDEEP PS and Sumanth Bhat, with conviction and clarity, have created Season 1 of *Ekam*, a seven-episode anthology series co-produced by Rakshit Shetty's Paramvah Studios. Each episode stands as a distinct narrative, offering a unique glimpse into the multifaceted human experience. Together, these episodes form a mosaic of emotions and events, contributing to a broader, universal story.

The prologue, followed by the seven episodes, presents varied tales that distil the core of human existence, drawing strength from universal themes. Set against the picturesque backdrop of Karavali in coastal Karnataka—a region of diverse communities and languages—it provides a vibrant setting for the characters and stories to flourish. The anthology format allows for an in-depth exploration of themes, with each episode functioning as an independent story, while also serving as a broader commentary on larger themes.

The series opens with Haaraata (Flight), an episode directed by Sankar Gangadharan and Vivek Vinod. It presents a heart-felt romantic comedy where a tender romance blossoms between Manjula (Shalini Kodagu) and Thomas (Shine Shetty), whose love faces challenges put forth by religious differences and other societal norms. This episode explains the subtleties of introverted affection, making the viewer empathise with the characters' quiet struggles and triumphs, all expressed subtly through a smile.

Shoonya (Void), directed by Sumanth Bhat and shot in Tulu, follows Guruvu's (Basuma Kodagu) haunting transformation from a master huntsman to a desolate figure who loses his once remarkable prowess. This episode stands out for



EKAM SEASON 1

Directors: Sandeep PS and Sumanth Bhat

Cast: Prakash Raj, Raj B Shetty, Manasa Sudhir, Shine Shetty, Basuma Kodagu, Babu Annur, Arunima Mini, Sanal Aman, and Pallavi Kodagu

Streaming: www.ekamtheseries.com

its deep emotional resonance and striking visuals, highlighting the loss of traditional knowledge in the face of modern advancements. Raj B Shetty shines in Dombaraata (Masquerade), directed by Sumanth Bhat. The actor plays Dhanaraja, a gullible man whose dream of starting a dairy farm turns into a comedic disaster when his prized cow mysteriously

vanishes. This episode blends comedy and realism with an endearing performance by Raj B Shetty, offering both light-hearted humour and subtly contemplative expressions, making it a delightful watch.

Bhranti (Delusion), created by Sumanth Bhat, delves into the emotional turmoil of a young girl played by Arunima Mini, who stumbles upon the truth of her adoption, which undoes her idyllic life. This exploration of adoption and identity is uniquely moving, and handled with sensitivity to evoke empathy and introspection. Swattu (Legacy) presents a chilling narrative as an ageing movie star's controversial autobiography disrupts the lives of a devoted fan and his maid, leading to unexpected

I'm looking forward to working with Siddharth: Chaithra Achar

The actor will start shooting for her next Tamil film, directed by Sri Ganesh



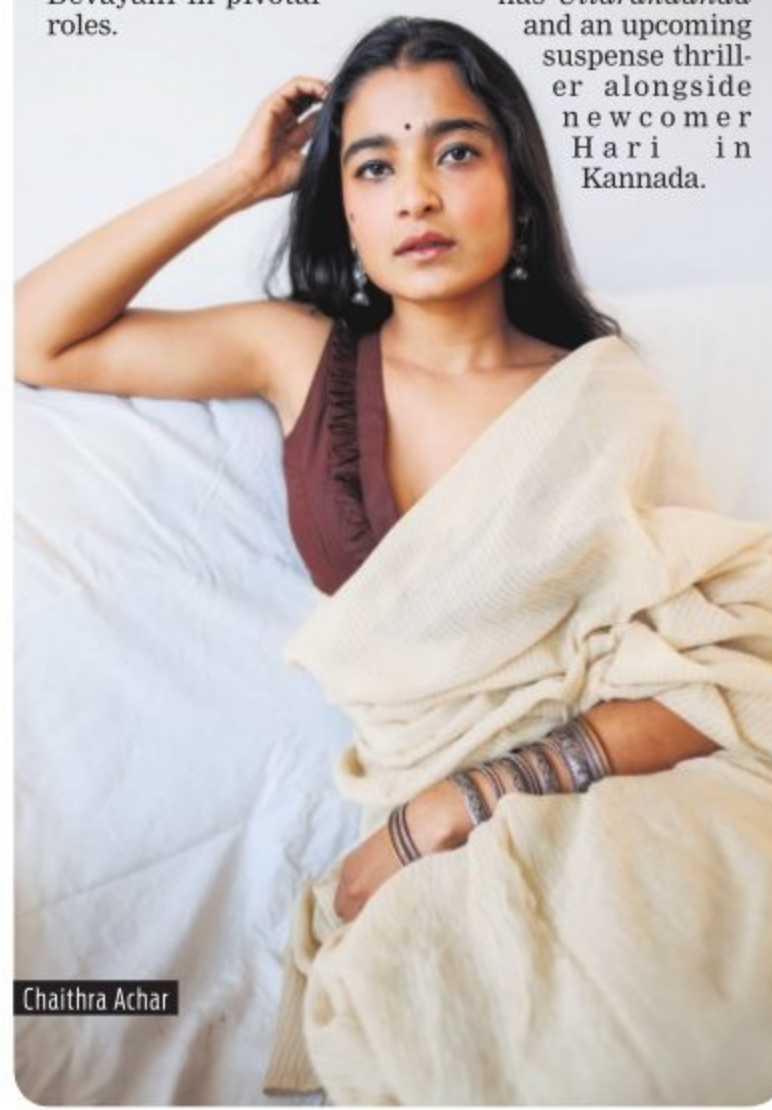
CE FEATURES

KANNADA actor Chaithra Achar, who has made her mark in Kannada is all set to make waves in Tamil cinema with two major projects. Currently filming director Raju Murgan's upcoming venture, she's also gearing up to start shooting for Siddharth's 40th film today.

Directed by Sri Ganesh, the film is produced by Shanthi Talkies, known for the successful *Maaveeran* starring Sivakarthikeyan. Siddharth 40 also features veteran actors Sarath Kumar and Devayani in pivotal roles.

Chaithra Achar, who is paired opposite Siddharth, expressed her enthusiasm, "This was the first project I signed in Tamil, and it's incredibly special. I'm excited to be part of a young team and equally looking forward to working with Siddharth. The director is not only talented but also a good writer, and I'm looking forward to collaborating with such a dynamic group. The anticipation over the past three months about this project has been immense, and now that filming is finally beginning, I cannot be more thrilled."

Chaithra Achar also has *Uttarakanda* and an upcoming suspense thriller alongside newcomer Hari in Kannada.



Chaithra Achar



Rohit's debut *Raktaksha* locks release date

CE FEATURES

RAKTAKSHA, which will mark Rohit's acting debut, is all set to hit theatres on July 26. The makers announced the same at the recently held trailer launch event, in the presence of actors Vijay Raghavendra and Suman Nagarkar. Directed by Vasudeva S N, the film will see Rohit undertaking a challenging role. *Raktaksha* is billed to be a murder mystery, blending mass elements with suspense.

Speaking at the event, Vijay Raghavendra emphasised the critical role of suspense in storytelling, applauding Rohit's dedication and performance. Meanwhile, Suman Nagarkar highlighted the central theme of the serial killer murder mystery that drives the narrative forward.

Produced under the Sai Productions banner, *Raktaksha* has music composed by Dossmode and lyrics penned by Sujith Venkataramaiah. The ensemble cast includes Roopa Rayappa, Archana Kottige, Rachana Dasharath, and Pramod Shetty in the role of the antagonist.

